

Education should not take ideology into account. High School and University students call for the rejection of the normative proposal that eliminates gender studies from schools and university curricula

The **National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR)** and the **National Council of High School Students (CNE)** strongly condemn the adoption by the Romanian Senate, which is the decisional chamber in this case, of the amendment to the National Law of Education no. 1/ 2011, **banning any activity "in order to spread the theory or opinion on gender identity" in schools and universities.** The Romanian Parliament has given, thus, the permission of abuses on people **whose gender does not correspond to their biological sex, limited their right to education and instigated hate against them, sending education in Romania to the Middle Ages.**

We call on the President of Romania, His Excellence **Klaus Iohannis**, to **reject this law** that **contradicts the constitutional principles** of non-discrimination, together with European regulations and many international conventions adopted by Romania, including the Istanbul Convention, which plays a key role in combating gender violence. The European institutions have repeatedly called on Romania's central institutions to adopt firm policies in order to combat discrimination of any kind, discrimination on the basis of gender identity being an area covered by these conventions and treaties.

First of all, the Romanian Parliament as a legislative forum, **does not have the competence to decide on issues related to school and university curriculum** in force, these decisions being in the hands of education experts and the Ministry of Education and Research. By adopting this legislative initiative, the Parliament goes beyond its constitutional attributes, entering the sphere of activity of the Executive. At the same time, it would legislate the prohibition of several bachelor's programs or master's fields already existing in Romanian universities.

Secondly, in terms of constitutional principles, this amendment should have also been debated in the Chamber of Deputies, but this did not happen. In the absence of a debate in which the civil society should be involved, without direct consultation of the representatives of high school and university students, direct beneficiaries of this educational process, we appreciate the measure as unjustified. Furthermore, this amendment incites violence against certain categories of pupils and students, denying them the constitutional right to education.

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Moreover, gender identity is an essential part of health/ sex education curriculum, and criminalizing activities on this topic does nothing but discriminate against people belonging to a gender identity other than biological sex. In the same note, we can really talk about the double measure in the context of the adoption of these provisions, as the whole Parliament is the one that approved the anti-bullying law (Law no. 221/ 2020), whose methodological rules stipulate that students cannot be discriminated/ harassed within the educational unit, regardless of the particularities of each one.

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