

Statement of the European Sociological Association regarding the Ongoing Situation in the Republic of Serbia

The European Sociological Association (ESA) expresses profound concern regarding the situation in the Republic of Serbia, where—since student-led protests against the government began in November 2024—protracted restrictions on freedom of expression and repeated violations of academic freedom have been documented. These developments have created conditions under which students and scholars are unable to freely and independently fulfill their academic roles.

The ESA asserts that professional integrity, collective solidarity, and strong support for all members of the academic community must constitute universal tenets, extending beyond campus or state borders. Ensuring that education and knowledge remain public goods requires a broad, transnational commitment to intellectual autonomy, ethical responsibility, and social justice. Such a commitment by governments is vital for universities and faculties, empowering the latter to uphold their mission as spaces of independent thought and critical reflection.

The struggle of students and citizens in Serbia is not an isolated case: it is part and parcel of a broader global defense of democracy and academic freedom at a time when both are increasingly under threat. Recognizing this, the European Sociological Association affirms its solidarity with the students, researchers, and professors of all higher education institutions in Serbia.