



Via email to: [stm@stm.dk](mailto:stm@stm.dk)

Lars Løkke Rasmussen  
Prime Minister of Denmark  
The Prime Minister's Office  
Christiansborg  
Prins Jørgens Gård 11  
1218 Copenhagen K

March 22, 2018

**RE: Dr. Brooke Harrington**

Your Excellency:

I am writing to express the deep concern of the American Sociological Association regarding the criminal charges that have been filed by Danish authorities against Dr. Brooke Harrington, a sociologist employed at the Copenhagen Business School. The charges against Dr. Harrington are related to lectures she gave about her research to audiences outside of the campus where she is employed. Similar charges have been filed against more than a dozen other foreign academics living in Denmark. It is our understanding that these charges stem from a new interpretation of Danish immigration law which effectively defines *any* off-campus, public, expert expression by a non-resident professor as a violation of the terms of their work authorization. Sharing research findings is a central responsibility of scholars and scientists. We respectfully request that you work with the relevant authorities to revoke this new interpretation of the law and drop these criminal charges with all appropriate urgency.

Dr. Harrington is a respected sociologist, long-term member of the American Sociological Association, and internationally renowned expert on the social dimensions of financial markets, tax laws, and public policy. She has been employed with distinction at the Copenhagen Business School for more than eight years. She has received substantial grant funding for her research activities. The American Sociological Association's Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline supported her work on a project titled "Reproduction of Wealth and Inequality in the US and Europe." The US National Science Foundation provided funding for her research on "The Impact of Gender and Group Processes on Investment Decisions," and the University of Michigan's Panel Study of Income Dynamics supported a project titled "Inheritance and Retirement Wealth." She is also widely published in highly respected journals in our field. In short, Dr. Harrington's lectures beyond the Copenhagen Business School—including one to the Danish parliament—reflect her deep expertise as well as her professional obligation to share the results of her research with audiences that can benefit from them.

If Dr. Harrington and the other individuals similarly charged are convicted of violating Danish immigration law, they will not only face stiff fines, they will have criminal records that will

permanently impact their lives and careers, reducing their chances of receiving permanent residency in Denmark and potentially preventing them from being employed in other countries as well.

Denmark is a country well known for academic freedom and human rights and its scholars are respected across the globe. The plight of Dr. Harrington and the other scholars impacted by this new interpretation of immigration law undermines the good standing of Denmark in the global community. We ask that you call on the relevant authorities to drop all charges against Dr. Harrington and other non-resident scholars which arise out of their exercise of natural academic activity, including delivering guest lectures, speaking before government bodies, and related exercise of the right to free expression.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Eduardo Bonilla-Silva".

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, President  
American Sociological Association

Cc:  
Søren Pind  
Minister for Higher Education and Science  
Denmark Ministry for Higher Education and Science  
Børsgade 4  
DK-1215 Copenhagen K  
Email: min@ufm.dk

Inger Støjberg  
Minister for Immigration, Integration and Housing  
Denmark Ministry for Immigration, Integration and Housing  
Udlændinge- og Integrationsministeriet, Slotsholmsgade 10  
1216 København K  
Email: uim@uim.dk