

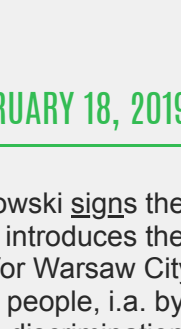
# POLAND

## ANTI-LGBTI HATE TIMELINE

OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, LGBTI PEOPLE IN POLAND HAVE COME UNDER SUSTAINED AND INCREASING ATTACK BY POLITICIANS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND OTHER PUBLIC FIGURES. THIS HAS COME IN THE FORM OF DANGEROUS AND FALSE FRAMING OF LGBTI PEOPLE AS BEING IN CONTRAVENTION TO CHRISTIANITY AND A THREAT TO CHILDREN.

SUCH DISCOURSE HAS CREATED AN ENVIRONMENT NORMALISING ANTI-LGBTI SENTIMENT, BOTH AMONGST THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS IN INSTITUTIONS, AS EVIDENCED BY THE ANTI-LGBTI RESOLUTIONS AND FAMILY CHARTERS ADOPTED BY NUMEROUS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN POLAND. ILGA-EUROPE AND OUR ALLIES IN CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE POLITICAL SPHERE HAVE REPEATEDLY CALLED ON THE EUROPEAN UNION TO INITIATE INFRINGEMENT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST POLAND FOR ITS ANTI-LGBTI RESOLUTIONS AND CHARTERS OVER THE PAST YEARS. ON 15 JULY 2021, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION INITIATED INFRINGEMENT PROCEEDINGS, DUE TO POLISH AUTHORITIES FAILING TO FULLY AND APPROPRIATELY RESPOND TO THE COMMISSION'S INQUIRIES REGARDING THE NATURE AND IMPACT OF THESE ANTI-LGBTI RESOLUTIONS AND CHARTERS. DESPITE THIS, POLISH AUTHORITIES CONTINUE THEIR SCAPEGOATING AND ATTACKS ON LGBTI PEOPLE.

WE HAVE CREATED AN ABBREVIATED TIMELINE OF ANTI-LGBTI HATE IN POLAND FROM 2018 TO PRESENT, WHICH SHOWS THE INCREASING PRESSURE AND FEAR LGBTI PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ENDURING.



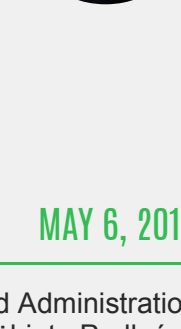
OCTOBER 8, 2018

The Equality March in Lublin is banned by the city's mayor, five days before it is scheduled to take place. The case is referred to the Regional Court at the request of the Ombudsman, where the ban is upheld. The ban is lifted by the Court of Appeal in Lublin on 12 October, one day before the planned march. CoE Commissioner for Human Rights [tweets her support](#) for the overturning of the Pride ban in Lublin.



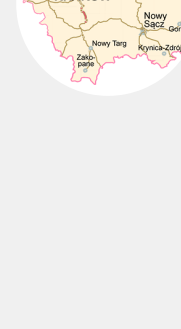
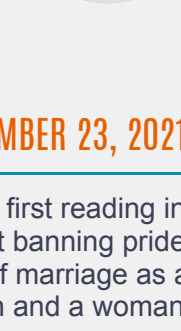
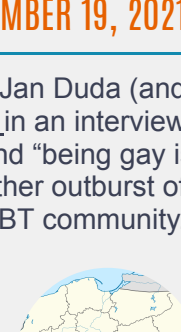
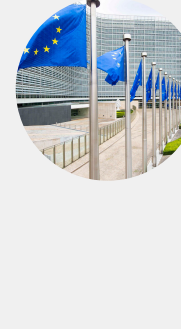
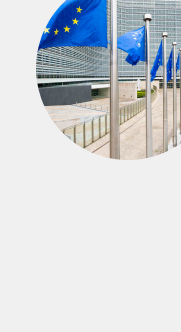
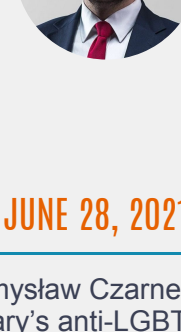
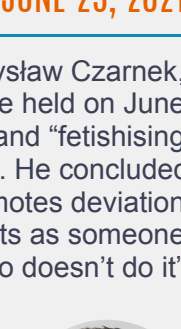
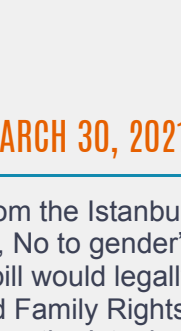
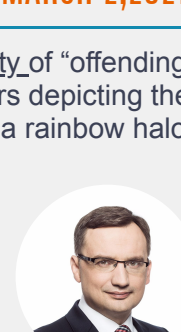
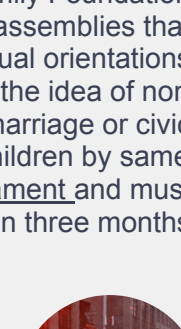
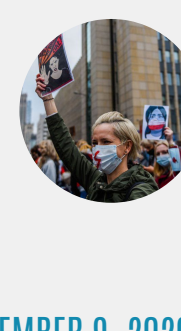
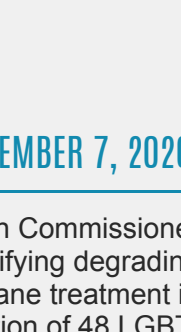
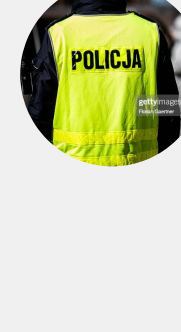
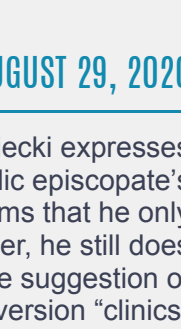
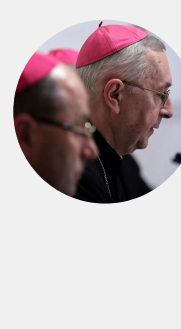
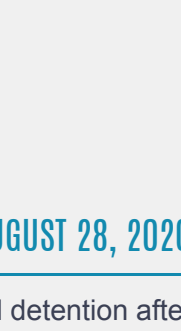
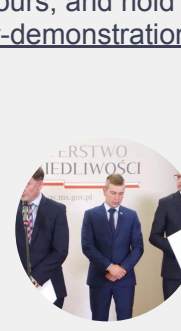
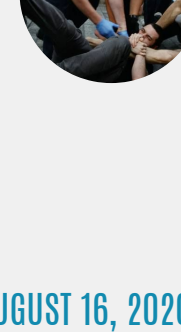
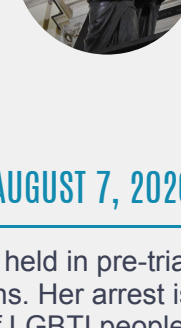
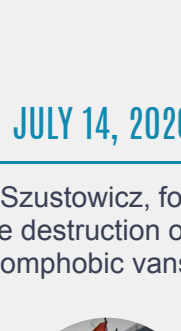
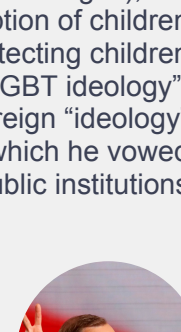
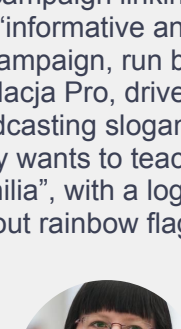
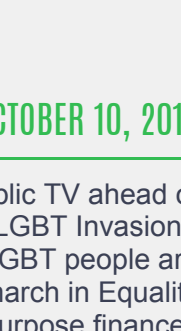
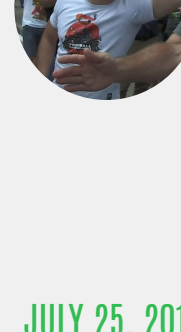
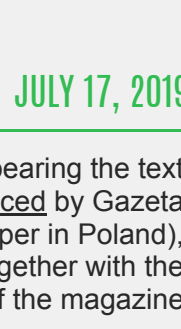
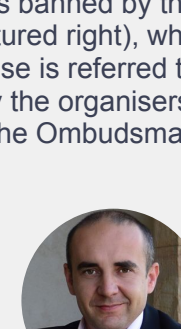
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Mayor of Warsaw Rafał Trzaskowski signs the Warsaw LGBT+ Charter – guidelines for Warsaw City Hall to improve the situation of LGBT+ people, i.e. by including LGBT+ experiences in anti-discrimination curricula and sex education in all schools.



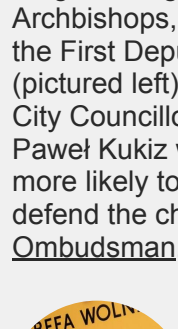
MARCH 27, 2019

Councillors in Świdnicki County adopt the declaration "Świdnicki County Free from LGBT Ideology". Since then, over 105 cities and municipalities have adopted "LGBT-free zone" declarations, with proposals and/or anti-LGBTI lobbying taking place in another 50.



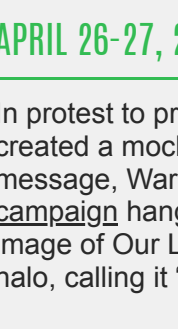
APRIL 17, 2018

First high profile political hate-speech against LGBTI people: Leader of the ruling Law and Justice party (PiS) Jarosław Kaczyński says, as part of a local government campaign, that "no homosexual marriages will occur; we will wait peacefully for the European Union countries to sober up".



OCTOBER 26, 2018

Significant opposition to the Rainbow Friday Campaign (a campaign day to show support for LGBT youth in schools. In 2018, 211 schools signed up). Opposition includes the development of a "Family Friendly School" programme, vocal opposition from the Ministry of Education, the Polish Episcopalate and the Catholic Education Commission of the Polish Episcopalate, and a prominent TV and radio journalist and writer Wojciech Ciołek (pictured left). A van is parked outside of a High School in Gorzów, bearing homophobic slogans, spreading hatred and misinformation about LGBT people.



FEBRUARY 18 - JUNE 21, 2019

Vehement opposition to the LGBT+ Charter from a range of religious and political leaders including Archbishops, The Polish Episcopal Conference, the First Deputy Minister of Justice Piotr Kukiz (pictured left), the Deputy Minister of Education, City Councillors (1) (2) (3), leader of Kukiz'15, Paweł Kukiz who states that the LGBT+ Charter is more likely to humanise the paedophile than to defend the child and the Children's Rights Ombudsman.



MARCH 27, 2019

About 30 of these municipalities also sign a "Local Government Charter of the Right of the Family" initiated by Ordo Iuris (logo picture left), a far right religion-based foundation, that has been campaigning against LGBTI rights, non-discrimination education in schools, and for a total ban of abortion rights in Poland.



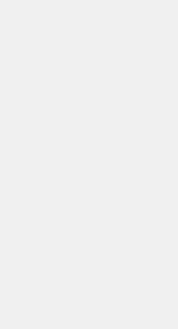
APRIL 3, 2019

A car is towed with a banner featuring anti-LGBT slogans around Gniezno. It reads: "What the LGBT lobby wants to teach kids: Masturbation, consenting to sex; first sexual experiences and orgasm. Stop paedophilia." Since then, cars and trucks bearing similar messaging have been consistently seen throughout the country.



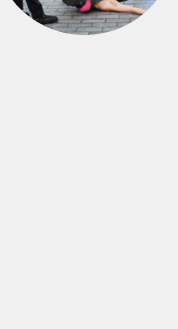
APRIL 26-27, 2019

In protest to priests of the Plock parish having created a mock grave with a homophobic message, Warsaw Liberty Activists carry out a campaign hanging posters in Plock, depicting the image of Our Lady of Częstochowa in a rainbow halo, calling it "Our Lady of Equality".



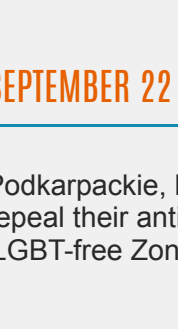
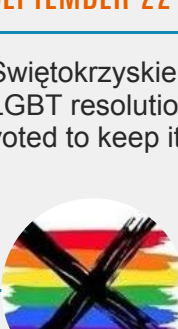
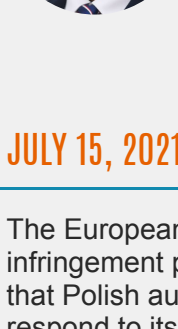
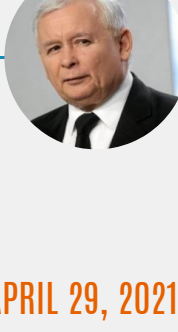
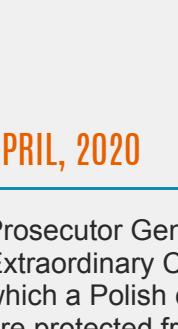
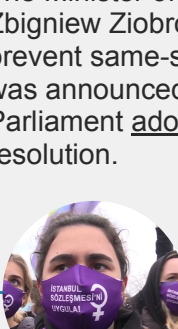
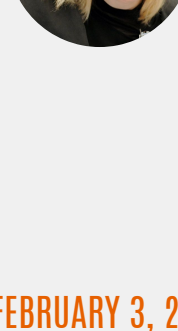
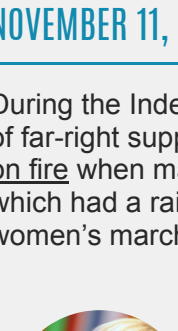
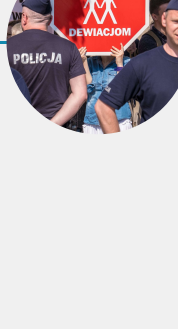
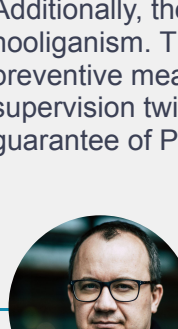
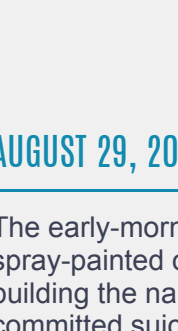
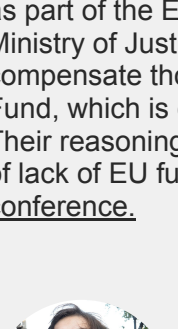
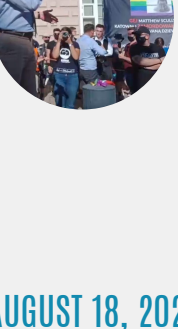
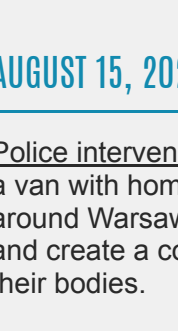
MAY 6, 2019

The Ministry of the Interior and Administration announces the detention of Elżbieta Podlesna (pictured right), one of the activists responsible for the "Our Lady of Equality" action, accused of desecration. The Head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, Joachim Brudziński of PiS, calls the posters "cultural barbarity".



MAY 7, 2019

Activist Anna Prus is attacked with gas while attempting to stick the image of Our Lady of Equality on a bus stop during a demonstration in Warsaw in solidarity with Podlesna.



The Equality March of Rzeszów is banned by the city's mayor Tadeusz Ferenc (pictured right), who cites safety as the reason. The case is referred to the Rzeszów Regional Court by the organisers, with the support of the Ombudsman.

The distribution of free stickers bearing the text "LGBT-free Zone" is announced by Gazeta Polska (a far-right weekly newspaper in Poland), who say they will be given out together with the next issue of the magazine.

The distribution of Gazeta Polska's "LGBT-free Zone" stickers is halted by a court in Poland, pending the outcome of a case filed by a human rights activist. In response Gazeta Polska instead distributes a reworded sticker, saying: "LGBT Ideology Free Zone".

A documentary is aired on public TV ahead of the Sunday election, entitled "LGBT Invasion". The documentary claims that LGBT people are paid by foreign NGOs to march in Equality Marches. "Who and for what purpose finances LGBT Marches?" the documentary asks. "What methods and sources of funding do they have? How does the 'LGBT invasion' work?"

Wrocław court rules that a campaign linking LGBT and paedophilia is "informative and educational". The campaign, run by ultraconservative NGO Fundacja Pro, drives vans through city centres broadcasting slogans warning that the "LGBT lobby wants to teach children" and "stop paedophilia", with a logo showing a crossed-out rainbow flag.

As part of his presidential election campaign, Polish President Andrzej Duda (pictured right) publicly signs the Family Charter where, among other things, he commits to defending the institution of marriage (which means no acceptance for same-sex marriages), not giving his acceptance for adoption of children by same-sex couples, and protecting children and the family from so-called "LGBT ideology", which he described as a foreign "ideology" worse than communism, and which he vowed to legally ban in public institutions.

First arrest of Margot Szustowicz, for her involvement in the destruction of one of the homophobic vans.

Third arrest of Margot, now held in pre-trial detention for two months. Her arrest is protested by hundreds of LGBTI people, resulting in a crackdown by police, with arbitrary police violence and arrests of 48, including some passers-by. Detainees complain of police violence during detention, such as being beaten in police cars and being deprived of food and water.

Margot receives access to a lawyer.

Anti-LGBT march in Warsaw, receives police protection. LGBTI activists paint their role in rainbow colours, and hold a counter-demonstration.

Margot is released from pre-trial detention after a successful court complaint. She still has police supervision three times a week.

Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki expresses broad support for the Catholic episcopate's position paper, but later claims that he only supports "fragments". However, he still does not distance himself from the suggestion of creating conversion "clinics".

A report is published by the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights, identifying degrading treatment, bordering on inhumane treatment in some cases of arrests and detention of 48 LGBTI activists the weekend of 7-9 August 2020.

A citizen's legislative initiative bill created by the anti-abortion group Life and Family Foundation "Stop LGBT", aiming to ban public assemblies that "promote", among other things, "sexual orientations other than heterosexuality", the idea of non-biological gender, same-sex marriage or civil partnerships, or the adoption of children by same-sex couples, was submitted to Parliament and must have a first reading within three months.

Dunja Mijatović, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, issued a Memorandum on the state of LGBTI rights in Poland. She underlined among others that "Polish politicians should stop stigmatising LGBTI people" and called for the anti-LGBT resolutions and Family Charters to be revoked.

Three activists found not guilty of "offending religious feelings" after posting posters depicting the Virgin Mary with a rainbow halo.

The Minister of Education, Przemysław Czarnek, said that the Warsaw Equality Parade held on June 19 was an "outrage against morals" and "fetishising and distorting equality and tolerance". He concluded that "someone who corrupts, promotes deviation does not have the same public rights as someone who doesn't do it".

The Minister of Education, Przemysław Czarnek said Poland should copy Hungary's anti-LGBT propaganda legislation.

The European Commission informed that in connection with the anti-LGBT resolution, all negotiations of the European Funds 2021-2027 for Małopolskie may be blocked. Similarly, for four other provinces.

Polish Deputy Justice Minister Marcin Romanowski claims that "freedom of religion" is a "freedom protection system" for a Cologne Court's fining of a Polish theologian for an article describing gay people in the Catholic clergy as "parasites". Ordo Iuris was the Polish theologian's legal defense.

Podkarpackie Province stops funding NGOs if they "are undermining the institution of marriage", through the implementation of a clause of the Regional Charter of Family Rights, co-created with Ordo Iuris.

Kaja Godek's (pictured left) Life and Family Foundation begin a new campaign, "Stop LGBT!", this time collecting signatures to demand a ban on all Prides in Poland.

Re-election of President Andrzej Duda.

Second arrest of Margot, along with two other activists, for draping a rainbow flag over a monument.

After the intervention of MPs and the Ombudsman, those arrested are located and given access to lawyers (previously denied by police). Lawyers help activists carry out a campaign hanging posters in Plock, depicting the image of Our Lady of Częstochowa in a rainbow halo, although she receives a visit from the Ombudsman.

Police intervene when LGBTI activists try to stop a van with homophobic slogans from driving around Warsaw. Police forcefully remove activists and create a corridor of protection for the van with their bodies.

In response to the European Commission's refusal to include LGBTI-free zones Polish towns as part of the EU's Town Twinning scheme, the Ministry of Justice of Poland will financially compensate those towns under their Justice Fund, which is designed to aid victims of crime. Their reasoning is that these towns were "victims" of lack of EU funding. [Link to live press conference.](#)

Poland's Catholic episcopate adopt an official "position on the question of LGBT+", which includes calls for the creation of "clinics to help people who want to regain their... natural sexual orientation". It also says that "any acts of physical or verbal violence, any forms of hooliganism, behaviour and aggression against LGBT+ people are unacceptable".

The early-morning arrest of LGBTI activist who spray-painted on the Ministry of Education building the names of LGBTI children who committed suicide. The activist is charged with Article 108 of the Law on the Protection of Monuments, for which they are facing between six months and eight years of imprisonment. Additionally, the activist was charged with hooliganism. The prosecutor's office also ruled preventive measures in the form of police supervision twice a week and a property guarantee of PLN 10,000.

LGBTI activists participate in the demonstrations protesting the Constitutional Court rulings on abortion.

During the Independence Day March, which thousands of far-right supporters attended, an apartment was set on fire when marchers threw flares at an apartment which had a rainbow flag and the symbol of the women's march protesters hanging from its balcony.

Podkarpackie region loses Norwegian Funds due to its anti-LGBT resolution (nearly 2 million PLN).

The Minister of Justice and the Prosecutor General, Zbigniew Ziobro, announced the creation of a bill to prevent same-sex couples from adopting children. This was announced on the same day that the European Parliament adopted its LGBTIQ Freedom Zone resolution.

Prosecutor General Zbigniew Ziobro lodged an Extraordinary Complaint to question the first case in which a Polish court confirmed that transgender people are protected from discrimination in employment and occupation based on sex.

Kraśnik - a symbol of the so-called "LGBT-free zones" - repeals its anti-LGBT resolution. This marks a great success for local activists.

Vice Minister of Justice, Michał Woś, revealed during a TV interview that the Polish government is working on a draft bill prohibiting "promotional" and propaganda activities of LGBT communities.

The European Commission initiates a formal infringement procedure against Poland as it considers that Polish authorities failed to fully and appropriately respond to its inquiry regarding the nature and impact of the so-called "LGBT-free zones" resolutions adopted by several Polish regions and municipalities.

Anti-LGBT symbols used at Warsaw Uprising anniversary, comparing LGBT to Nazis and Communism.

Małopolskie region, in the face of threat of loss of 2.5 billion Euro of EU funding (see July 27), still voted to keep its anti-LGBT resolution.

The European Commission's DG REGIO temporarily blocks REACT-EU funds to those five Polish regions which have anti-LGBT resolutions or Family Rights Charter (Lubelskie, Łódzkie, Małopolskie, Podkarpackie and Świętokrzyskie), as it considers that the principle of non-discrimination in the implementation of European Structural and Investment Funds funds is not ensured.

Świętokrzyskie region voted to repeal its anti-LGBT resolution. The following day, Łódzkie region voted to keep its anti-LGBT Family Charter.

Draft bill "STOP LGBT" sent to the first reading in the Polish Parliament. It aims e.g. at banning pride marches and stopping "questioning of marriage as a union between a man and a woman".

Podkarpackie, Małopolskie and Lubelskie voted to repeal their anti-LGBT resolutions, reducing so-called "LGBT-free Zones" by a half to 16.5% of Poland.