

LGBT-free zones:

Fighting LGBT-phobia in Poland

PREPARED BY:
JUSTYNA NAKIELSKA | CAMPAIGN AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA

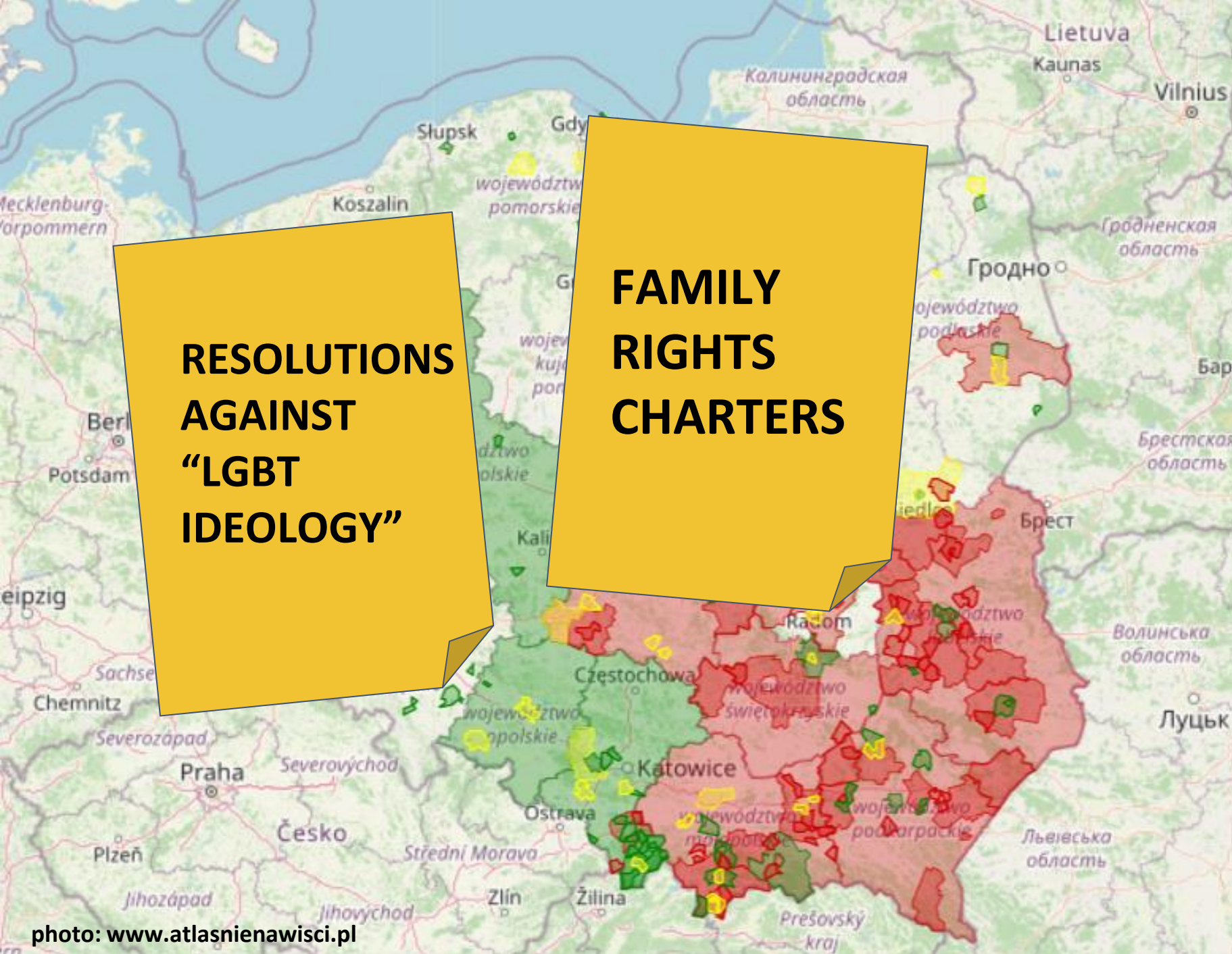
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LGBT+ Declaration

[Warsaw Urban Policy for the LGBT+ Community]





POLAND

Local municipalities, counties and voivodeships (provinces) marked **in red** started to declare themselves free from “LGBT ideology” or adopted discriminatory Family Rights Charters.



This is Atlas of Hate: an initiative of local LGBT activists who have transferred discriminatory regions on a map.

nearly 100(!) resolutions

STREFA WOLNA

OD LGBT

LGBT – FREE ZONE

ZONE SANS LGBT

ЗОНА БЕЗ ЛГБТ

“homopropaganda”

“demoralization of our children”

“promoting anti-civilization”

“defend Polish tradition and families”

“aggressive, lying and harmful LGBT ideology”

“shockers interested in early sexualisation
of Polish children”

“pathologies”

“foreign/dangerous ideology”

“we declare support for the family based on traditional values
and the protection of the education system against LGBT
propaganda that threatens the correct development of the
young generation”

“a threat to the traditional family and children”

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

PLANNING+OBJECTIVES



OFFLINE ACTIONS

- visiting “LGBT-free zones” in person and participating in local city/county council sessions
- sending intervention letters
- commenting for traditional media
- raising international awareness and visiting European Parliament in November 2019 to talk about “LGBT-free zones”
- visiting a special session of the Danish Parliament and talking about Poland
- strikes and LGBTI group demanding to cancel “the zones”

Niedzwica Duża

STREFA WOLNA
OD LGBT
LGBT - FREE ZONE
ZONE
ZONE

Trzebieszów

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photos: Bart Staszewski

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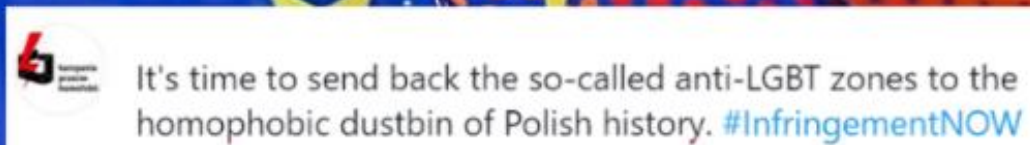
Końskowola



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It's time to send back the so-called anti-LGBT zones to the homophobic dustbin of Polish history. [#InfringementNOW](#)



INNE

12 stycznia 2021

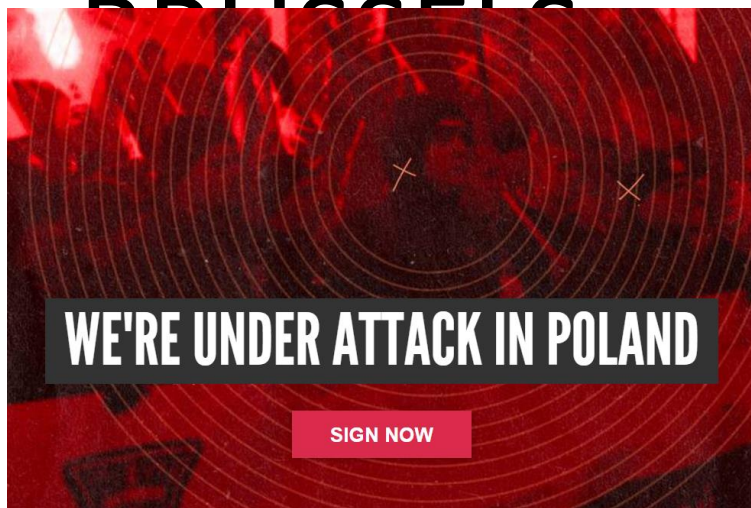
The end of anti-LGBT zones in Poland – #InfringementNOW Campaign

The Campaign Against Homophobia does not stop in the fight against LGBT-free zones. After last

ONLINE

- supporting and empowering local initiatives and activists online
- mailings to local governmental authorities
- informing international authorities and organisations about the situation in Poland
- complaining to commissioners
- attracting (international) media's attention
- #InfringementNOW campaign and Twitter storm directed to EU commissioners
- international campaigning with All Out and an online petition given to EU equality commissioner

“LGBT-FREE ZONES” CAMPAIGN IN



WE'RE UNDER ATTACK IN POLAND

SIGN NOW

To: Ursula von der Leyen, European Commission President

LGBT+ people in Poland are under attack: Since 2019, many Polish municipalities have declared themselves "LGBT-free zones," a newspaper distributed stickers with this inflammatory slogan, and participants at a Pride march in the city of Białystok were attacked by nationalist hooligans and far-right groups.

We call on you to condemn these acts of violence and discrimination and to urge Polish authorities to protect the LGBT+ community and to pass legislation on hate crimes based on sexual orientation and gender identity.



photo © All Out / Bea Uhart

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OUTCOMES

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- local preoccupation -> european preoccupation
 - scattered actions - common goal
 - public pressure and worldwide attention have provoked a chilling effect
 - since July 2020 no new anti-LGBT resolutions or Family Rights Charters adopted
 - local authorities more conscious and careful, some of them withdrawing discriminatory resolutions
 - local governments adopting declarations of solidarity with LGBTI community
-
- Resolution of the European Parliament condemning the discriminatory resolutions
 - PE declared EU “LGBTIQ freedom zone” as a response to the Polish “zones”
 - Commission checks funding
 - first ever EU LGBTI Equality Strategy 2020-2025
 - reaction of Special Procedures of United Nations

CONCLUSIONS AND TAKE- AWAYS

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- dream big!
- think about the big picture and prepare your strategy according to your objective
- do a good research, be well-informed about the issue
- use multiple tactics and apply them together to achieve your goal
- be present and react on local, national and international level
- act both online and offline: a mix-up of digital and real life is more likely to make you successful
- choose carefully what you share on social media
- cooperate and engage various actors for your cause
- work collectively and join your forces, solidarity and pressure makes sense!
- support and give ownership to the affected ones, make their voice heard
- you can shape reality around you and decide in which world you want to live

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kph_official



info@kph.org.pl



www.kph.org.pl

THANK YOU!

Contact me:

Justyna Nakielska



jnakielska@kph.org.pl



+48 794 152 001



+48 794 152 001