



Minority rights violations in Poland October 2021

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Europe Team: Clara-Lou Lagiere, Elia Duran-Smith, Fabian Escobar, Mariatereza Kokaj, Noud Zuidberg, Zeena Amini.

Executive Summary

This report intends to provide an overview of some of the key developments of the human rights situation in Poland in 2021. It is structured around the human rights violations perpetrated against several suppressed groups – namely women, LGBT+ people, ethnic minorities and migrants. The violations covered regarding women's rights are the near total ban on abortions, and the inadequacy of the Polish government's prevention of violence against women and, more specifically, domestic violence through plans to exit the Istanbul Convention. The section regarding the state of LGBT+ rights in Poland outlines the the government's strengthening of its anti-LGBT+ stance over the pandemic and the introduction of the symbolic anti-LGBT+ zones across the country. This has alarmed the EU which, since this year, has begun to take legal action against the Polish government for not sufficiently protecting the rights of its LGBT+ citizens. Finally, the report addresses the illegal pushback of migrants at Poland's borders and the Polish border authorities' deficient treatment of migrants' needs at its borders.

Women's rights



Source: Spacerowiczka

Abortion Ban

Last year, in October 2020, one of the gravest human rights violations took place in Poland as the Constitutional Tribunal passed a law stipulating an almost total ban of abortions. This goes in violation of Article 8 on the 'right to respect for private and family life' of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Global Human Rights Defence stands against this grave violation of human rights in Poland that has taken effect since January 2021. Every individual has the right to decide freely on the number and the timing of having children, and to have the means to do so or not, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.¹

What is abortion?

An abortion is a procedure to end a pregnancy, otherwise known as a termination of pregnancy.² The pregnancy is ended either by taking medication or undergoing a surgical procedure.³ An abortion may occur spontaneously, in which case it is also called a miscarriage, or it may be brought on purposefully, in which case it is often called an induced abortion. Induced abortions may be performed inter alia to prevent giving birth for social or economic reasons, such as the extreme youth of the pregnant female or the sorely strained resources of the family unit.⁴

1. World Health Organization (2021, March 20) Abortion: Access to safe abortion protects women's and girls' health and human rights. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research. https://www.who.int/health-topics/abortion#tab=tab_1.
2. Abortion. (2021, April 22). Medical | MedlinePlus <https://medlineplus.gov/abortion.html>.
3. Abortion. (2021, August 6). In nhs.uk. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/abortion/>.
4. Abortion (Termination of Pregnancy). (2011, January 9). Harvard Health Publishing, Harvard Medical School. <https://www.health.harvard.edu/medical-tests-and-procedures/abortion-termination-of-pregnancy-a-to-z>.

Some context on the situation in Poland: The law on abortion ban

Women's rights groups estimate that there are approximately 80,000 to 120,000 Polish women a year who try to get an abortion done abroad. Even women who meet the legal standards to have an abortion in Poland often face challenges to have one, such as the stigma surrounding the issue.⁵ "The decision of Poland's Constitutional Tribunal takes place in the context of repeated government attacks on women's rights and efforts to roll back reproductive rights, as well as legal and policy changes that have undermined the independence of the judiciary and rule of law in Poland," according to NGOs such as Amnesty International, the Center for Reproductive Rights and Human Rights Watch. The Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights said the day marked a "sad day for women's rights".⁶

Poland's abortion laws were already among the strictest in Europe and the Constitutional Tribunal's ruling proved that once again. Since the decision came into effect in January 2021, terminations have only been allowed in cases of rape or incest, or if the mother's health is at risk, hence why this latest measure has been considered as an almost total abortion ban.⁷ The ruling sparked nationwide protests, despite a ban on gatherings due to Covid-19 restrictions.⁸ The protests were considered as some of the largest that the country had seen ever since the Solidarity movement in the 1980s which helped to end the Communist rule.

Bishops and lay groups pressured the governing Law and Justice party to impose a stricter law on abortion. Although the party supports traditional Catholic values, changing the law was problematic. There was opposition both in parliament and on the streets. In 2016 an estimated 100,000 people, mostly women, protested to block an attempt to tighten the law.

What are the risks associated with the abortion ban law?

The ruling of Poland's Constitutional Court will not prevent abortions. Unfortunately, this ruling will only lead to unsafe abortions which can dangerously put the mother's health at risk. When women with unwanted pregnancies cannot receive a safe abortion, they often have to choose unsafe abortion methods. An abortion is unsafe when it is carried out by someone who does not have the required skills to carry out the procedure or when the abortion procedure takes place in an environment that does not conform to minimal medical standards.

Unsafe abortion can lead to death in the worst cases, or long-term complications, permanently affecting the women's physical and mental health. It also has financial implications for women and communities.⁹ Therefore, it is vital to the overall well-being of all women to have the freedom between choosing to go further with their pregnancy or to terminate it. In case Polish girls and women cannot find a safe environment in their own country when deciding to terminate a pregnancy, it is not easy for them to move to other countries to conduct the abortion procedure where they can legally receive it. Moving to another country where Polish women can receive this medical service, would require additional costs from their own personal pocket, it would cause more stress, more time and perhaps it would cost them a job. Any of these consequences cannot positively contribute to the overall well-being of Polish women. It is in the best interest of the Polish government to safeguard the wellbeing of its female citizens, as it seems that a ban on abortion will serve merely as a Pandora's box and cause more grave consequences than benefits.

5. Poland abortion: Top court bans almost all terminations. (2020). Poland Abortion: Top Court Bans Almost All Terminations.

6. Ibid; Mortensen, A. (2021, January 28). Poland puts new restrictions on abortion into effect, resulting in a near-total ban on terminations. CNN World. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/28/europe/poland-abortion-restrictions-law-intl-hnk/index.html>.

7. Ibid.

8. Mortensen, A. (2021, January 28). Poland puts new restrictions on abortion into effect, resulting in a near-total ban on terminations. CNN World. <https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/28/europe/poland-abortion-restrictions-law-intl-hnk/index.html>.

9. World Health Organization (2021, March 20) Abortion: Access to safe abortion protects women's and girls' health and human rights. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research. https://www.who.int/health-topics/abortion#tab=tab_1

Domestic violence and violence against women

In August 2020, a study commissioned, but not published, by the Polish government in 2019 was leaked to the press. In spite of the implementation of the National Action Plan to tackle domestic violence, this study concluded that 63% of Polish women experience domestic violence. It found that the persistence of this problem was the perpetrators' feeling of assured impunity.¹⁰ With the ever-present problem of underreporting of crimes such as domestic violence due to social stigma, this figure may in fact be even higher than that provided in the Polish government's report.

In July 2020, the Polish justice minister Zbigniew Ziobro announced to a news conference that his ministry would file a request to the ministry of labour and families to commence the process of withdrawal from the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, more commonly referred to as the Istanbul Convention.¹¹ According to the Council of Europe itself, as well as prominent women's rights NGOs such as Equality Now, the Istanbul Convention is the most comprehensive international treaty to combat violence against women.¹² It was signed by 45 countries and the European Union and ratified by 34 countries.¹³

That same year, a ministerial letter outlining the contents of this convention by Ziobro was sent to other central and eastern European governments such as those in Czechia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary and Croatia and potentially others to gauge the level of support for the adoption of a regional alternative to the Istanbul Convention.¹⁴

The Polish government has displayed support for the "Yes to Family, No to Gender" bill created by far-right groups Ordo Iuris and the Christian Social Congress.¹⁵ An alternative regional convention based on this domestic bill has been in formulation by the Polish government since 2020.

In March 2021, the Polish parliament voted in favour of the "Yes to Family, No to Gender" bill that was to be sent to parliamentary committees for examination.¹⁶ This bill was introduced as a citizen's initiative intended as a route to pursue alternative legislation to the Istanbul Convention.¹⁷ The bill asks the President to withdraw Poland from the Istanbul Convention and to set up an advisory body that would, over a period of three years, create a separate international convention to protect "the rights of the family".¹⁸ The bill has been widely criticised by human rights groups. For example, Hillary Margolis, a women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch, said "Parliament can and should still reject the dangerous bill, ensure protection from violence for all women and girl[s]".¹⁹

10. Hylton, A. (2021, March 25). 'Just write STOP': The teenager helping Polish women flee abuse. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/mar/25/just-write-stop-the-teenager-helping-polish-women-flee-abuse>

11. "Poland to quit treaty on violence against women, minister says" (2020, July 25). *Reuters*. <https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-poland-eu-idUKKCN24Q0DE>

12. Equality Now. (2021). 10 Years of the Istanbul Convention: Combatting Violence Against Women across Europe and Beyond. https://www.equalitynow.org/10_years_istanbul_convention

13. "Chart of signatures and ratifications of Treaty 210" (n.d.) Council of Europe. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210?module=signatures-by-treaty&treatynum=210>

14. Ciobanu, C. (2020, October 6). Poland begins push in region to replace Istanbul Convention with "family rights" treaty. *Balkan Investigative Reporting Network*. <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/10/06/family-rights-treaty/>

15. *Ibid.*

16. Amiel, S. (2021, April 1). Istanbul Convention: Poland moves a step closer to quitting domestic violence treaty. *Euronews*. <https://www.euronews.com/2021/04/01/istanbul-convention-poland-moves-a-step-closer-to-quitting-domestic-violence-treaty>

17. Harper, J. (2021, March 22). Poland pitches 'Warsaw Convention' as Turkey exits Istanbul version. *Emerging Europe*. <https://emerging-europe.com/news/poland-pitches-warsaw-convention-as-turkey-exits-istanbul-version/>

18. *Ibid* (14).

19. *Ibid* (16).

Furthermore, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), an independent body that monitors the implementation of the Istanbul Convention, published a report on Poland's progress on 16 September, 2021. It finds several major areas of concern. For example, the Polish government's rhetoric and actions towards domestic violence which is "narrowly framed as 'family violence'", does not acknowledge the disproportionality of women's experiences of domestic abuse and, therefore, does not have a response to this problem that is tailored to women's "specific needs, dependencies and realities".²⁰ Additionally, the GREVIO group expressed concern for there being 'no specific guidance tools (policies, protocols or instructions) on how to address violence against women as a gender-based crime', meaning that the current criminal legislation does not take into consideration the particularly gendered experiences of women facing gender-based violence which inhibits their access to justice.²¹

The report calls upon Poland to align its definition of rape under its criminal legislation with that of the convention which moves away from the traditional conception of it as force-based to one that encompasses 'all non-consensual sexual acts'.²²

Domestic abuse and violence against women continue to be significant problems in Poland that are not being adequately solved by the Polish government according to women's rights activists and the Council of Europe's independent board of experts. The most comprehensive international treaty compelling ratifying parties to have robust legislation to tackle this problem, the Istanbul Convention, is being undermined and evaded by the Polish government in favour of a regional convention that will continue to ignore the aspect of gender inequality that must be tackled in order to eliminate domestic violence and violence against women.

20. Council of Europe GREVIO (2021, September 16). Baseline Evaluation Report: Poland. p.7. <https://rm.coe.int/grevio-baseline-report-on-poland/1680a3d20b>

21. Ibid. (20), p.55-56

22. Council of Europe Directorate of Communications (2021, September 16). Poland: While initiatives against domestic violence show promise, urgent steps needed to respond to other forms of violence against women, says new report [Press release]. https://search.coe.int/directorate_of_communications/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=0900001680a3d7f4

LGBT+ rights



Source: Adrianna Bochenek / Agencja Gazeta

Ever since the LGBT-free zones started appearing in 2019, LGBT+ rights have become an increasingly divisive and high-profile issue in Poland, a country under conservative nationalist rule where the vast majority of the population is Catholic. This issue created a collision course for Poland with multiple other bodies, including the European Commission. A legal complaint has been submitted to the European Commission in September 2020, claiming a breach of Poland's legal obligations under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights²⁴ and a European Council directive for equal treatment in employment and occupation.^{25,26}

In 2019, Rafał Trzaskowski, the current mayor of Warsaw and member of the centrist Civic Platform Party, signed an LGBT+ declaration for Warsaw, which is a 10-point plan to overcoming discrimination and inequality.²⁷ Trzaskowski is an outspoken LGBT+ ally and has often spoken about his vision of a Poland that is inclusive and pro-EU. This pro-LGBT+ stance sparked criticism from the ruling Law and Justice Party (Prawo i Sprawiedliwość, PiS) who responded by taking an intensified anti-LGBT+ stance. This position was put to action in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election when the PiS candidate and current president Andrzej Duda signed the so-called 'Family Charter'.²⁸ This charter opposes same-sex marriage,

23. Savage, R. (2021, February 10). Hate crime, violence feared in Polish "LGBT-free zones." U.S.

24. European Union, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 26 October 2012, 2012/C 326/02

25. European Union: Council of the European Union, Council Directive 2000/78/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation, 27 November 2000, OJ L 303, 02/12/2000 P. 0016 - 0022.

26. Reide, G. (2021, February 24). Poland Breaches EU Obligations Over LGBT, Women's Rights. Human Rights Watch.

27. Ibid

28. Ibid

adoption rights for LGBTQ+ individuals, and education on sexuality in schools. In mid-2020, almost a third of the municipalities had adopted the anti-LGBT+ ideology declaration which meant that LGBT+-free zones were established in all those municipalities.²⁹ Ever since then, LGBT+ rights have become a major problem in the Polish political battlefield.

The Polish government denies any active role in the process, saying that Poland does not have any laws that discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation.³⁰ This position is based on the statement from the Polish government stating that local resolutions do not have any legal standing. “[They] are only opinions and do not affect rights and obligations of the residents,” said Poland's minister of funds and regional policy, Malgorzata Jarosinska-Jedynak in a letter to Norwegian officials.³¹

The European Commission, however, thinks otherwise and has launched an infringement procedure against Poland in July 2021 in relation to the equality and protection of fundamental human rights.³² The Commission is concerned that the adopted declarations may not be in accordance with EU law of non-discrimination based on sexual orientation. Therefore, the Commission had started an assessment of the compatibility of the declarations with EU law, for which it asked the Polish authorities for their cooperation. The Polish authorities were requested to provide information on the matter but failed to do so and thus have not complied with the principle of sincere cooperation under Article 4(3) TEU.³³ Consequently, the Commission decided to send a letter of formal notice to Poland for its lack of cooperation. The Polish government has until the end of this month to respond, otherwise the Commission may decide to send them a reasoned opinion and, in a step further, refer them to the Court of Justice.³⁴

On Monday, the 27th of September, three Polish regions voted to renounce the declarations containing the LGBT-free zones. This happened after the EU urged five large regions to scrap them, threatening to pull funding from the local governments which amounted to 126 million euros.³⁵ In response to this threat, Podkarpackie, Lubelskie and Malopolskie scrapped their declarations on Monday, following the lead of another region, Świętokrzyskie, which already did so the previous week. The Polish minister of Justice calls the financial pressure from the EU plain “blackmail”.³⁶ With both the threat of pulling funding as well as the infringement procedure taking place, it seems that Poland is slowly succumbing to EU pressure.

29. Nardelli, A., & Bordoni, S. (2021, June 29). EU Is Planning Legal Action Against Poland Over LGBTQ Rights. Bloomberg.

30. Euronews. (2021, August 20). Polish region wants to remain an “LGBT-free” zone despite risking millions in EU funds.

31. Savage, R. (2021, February 10). Hate crime, violence feared in Polish “LGBT-free zones.” U.S. S

32. European Commission. (2021, July 15). EU founding values: Commission starts legal action against Hungary and Poland for violations of fundamental rights of LGBTIQ people. European Commission.

33. European Union, Consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, 26 October 2012, OJ L. 326/47-326/390; 26.10.2012

34. European Commission. (2021, July 15). EU founding values: Commission starts legal action against Hungary and Poland for violations of fundamental rights of LGBTIQ people. European Commission.

35. BBC News. (2021, September 28). Three Polish regions scrap anti-LGBT resolutions.

36. Ibid

Migrants and asylum seekers rights at the border



Source: Getty Images

Since August 2021, the number of migrants and asylum-seekers transiting through Belarus to reach Poland has significantly increased. In response, the Polish government has strengthened the security at its border, and almost systematically and forcibly removed people from the country's territory, denying their right to seek international protection and the non-refoulement principle. Consequently, people are stuck at the border between two countries that refuse to let them in. For this report, we interviewed a lawyer from the Association for Legal Intervention, working on the ground in Poland to provide humanitarian relief as well as legal assistance to the migrants at the border.³⁸

Since the 19th century, Poland has been a country with high levels of emigration and one of the biggest labor suppliers. The end of the cold war in 1989 followed by the adhesion to the EU in 2004, marked the beginning of the immigration of people coming from neighboring countries such as Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.³⁹ At that time, immigration was necessary to counterbalance the emigration of almost 2 million young Polish individuals to the United Kingdom and Ireland. However, since the beginning of the humanitarian crisis in 2015, Poland has been implementing an anti-immigration policy.

37. To know more about the issue, find the interview in its entirety on ghrd.org.

38. Borzeda, A. (2010). La politique d'immigration en Pologne. France terre d'asile. <https://www.france-terre-asile.org/articles-ftda/leurope-de-lasile/la-politique-dimmigration-en-pologne>

The new conservative government refused to implement the two extraordinary measures requested by the EU: between 2015 and 2017, Poland was one of the few countries which did not relocate or resettle anyone. Its immigration policy is based on the will to affirm and protect the sovereignty of the country. Finally, Poland is one of the most homogeneous countries with 94% of the population being from the same ethnic origin and wants to maintain this homogeneity. This explains why Poland refuses to take in any asylum-seekers as requested by the EU while it is welcoming thousands of labour migrants coming from neighboring countries with a similar culture and religion for whom the regulation processes are made easier.⁴⁰

As a consequence of the limited immigration before the '90s, the legal system regarding migrants and refugee rights is weak. The Polish constitution does not mention anything related to migration policy, except the right to seek asylum and the general dispositions related to foreign nationals' rights. It was only in 2003 and 2013 that laws related to foreign nationals and their right to be granted protection were adopted. In addition, Poland is bound by international law to protect the rights of migrants since the ratification in 1991 of the Refugee status convention (1951) and the additional Protocol (1967) and the European Convention on Human rights ratified two years later. These bodies of law constrain Poland to comply with human rights law and refugee law in all circumstances.⁴¹ Yet, on the 20th of August, following the arrivals at the border, the government amended a COVID-19 related law, called the "Implementing Act" which authorizes any migrants to be returned outside the country when found close to the border after crossing irregularly.⁴² Lawyers and human rights activists claim this law is unlawful and does not apply as long as it contradicts international and national law. According to the interviewee, « Such a law, as of today, is the current practice even if it is not based on anything legally. They are trying to formulate some legal basis to their current actions. [...] . That regulation was passed outside the scope. If we had a working constitutional tribunal, it would not have passed. People are pushed-back in unsafe locations. [...] They are escorted in the middle of the woods, in the middle of the night, with no idea where they are and where they can go ». Indeed, she explains that most of the time, the police border forces do not take asylum applications, and when they do, it is unpredictable and there is no well-known basis for those exceptions.

According to the government, more than 5, 000 people tried to cross the border in September, while there were 3, 510 attempts in August and fewer than 250 in June.⁴³ Out of 9, 400 illegal attempts to cross, the government said 8, 200 people were forced to return.⁴⁴ This systematic practice, as has been validated by the Polish government [6], is illegal under international law. It goes against article 18 of the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union⁴⁵ and the Geneva Convention on refugee status⁴⁶ on the right to ask for international protection.

40. Musiał, S. (2017). La Pologne et la crise migratoire en Europe. *Population & Avenir*, 733, 14-16. <https://doi.org/10.3917/popav.733.0014>

41. Miroslaw, G. (2017). Pologne. *Annuaire international de justice constitutionnelle*, 32 (2016). 451-462.

42. BIRN. (2021, August 30). Poland Delivers Another Blow to International Rights of Refugees. *Balkan Insight*. <https://balkaninsight.com/2021/08/30/poland-delivers-another-blow-to-international-rights-of-refugees/>

43. Iwaniuk, J. (2021, September 23). A la frontière entre la Biélorussie et la Pologne, la crise migratoire fait ses premières victimes. *Le Monde.fr* https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2021/09/23/a-la-frontiere-entre-la-bielorussie-et-la-pologne-la-crise-migratoire-fait-ses-premieres-victimes_6095733_3210.html

44. Iwaniuk, J. (2021, September 29). En Pologne, le gouvernement national conservateur organise une opération de dénigrement des migrants. *Le Monde.fr*. https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2021/09/29/denigrement-d-etat-des-migrants-en-pologne_6096440_3210.html

45. European Union, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 26 October 2012, 2012/C 326/02

46. UN General Assembly, Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 137

It also violates the prohibition of collective expulsion according to which any forced return must be based on the assessment of every persons' situation in the group.⁴⁷ Lastly, it is a violation of the non-refoulement principle⁴⁸ which also prohibits returning people to a safe country that doesn't provide enough guarantees for the individuals'.⁴⁹ This situation has been worsened by the implementation of a state of emergency on the 2nd of September, in eight bordering districts, prohibiting access to the press and NGOs in the area and, therefore, preventing food distribution and journalist documentation.

The interviewee explains that there are two types of situations. The first category of people, that is a minority, end up stuck at the border, encircled by the Belarussian and Polish border forces, with no access to food, medical assistance, shelter, forced to drink water from the river or the swamps, and unable to move. The organizations willing to help them cannot access the group because they are in the restricted zones. In these cases, they try to connect with local activists living at the border that are authorized to move freely in these areas, in order to assist the people in need. The second type of situation, which concerns the majority of the people, is an endless circle. When found crossing the border, people are pushed-backs and left in the woods by the Polish police, then forced by the Belarussian to cross the border with Poland again. She explains « some people told us that they were beaten by the Belarussian armed forces, that they shot on the ground near where they were sitting and that they pushed them to the border with Poland ».

Overall, this situation has led to 7 deaths in two months and the organizations fear there are more « We think the number of deaths might be higher because those are only the number reported by the border police but migrants are telling us that in the restricted areas, there are other dead bodies. Yet, we haven't seen them so we cannot confirm that but with the winter coming, the situation will get worse. » The international community did not wait to react. On the 25th of August, the European Court of Human Rights called on Poland to provide food, medicine and shelter to the migrants at the border, and allow lawyers an access to the migrants.⁵⁰ According to the Association for Legal Intervention, the interim measures from the ECHR are not always respected by the government. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) issued a joint statement calling on Poland to uphold the rule of law, respect human rights and freedom of all migrants while controlling its border and to provide open access to people for medical help and distributions. The dire conditions people find themselves in are a violation of their basic right to life [8], the prohibition of degrading and inhuman treatment [8] and the right to health protection and medical assistance.⁵¹ The government did not answer those calls but it sent thousands of soldiers at the border and started constructing barbed wire-fences. Lately, the government also sent almost 31, 000 text messages to foreign mobile phones located close to the border aimed at discouraging asylum seekers from entering the territory.⁵²

47. Council of Europe, Protocol 4 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, securing certain Rights and Freedoms other than those already included in the Convention and in the First Protocol thereto, 16 September 1963, ETS 46

48. Ibid (9)

49. European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights & Council of Europe. (2021, 18 juin). Fundamental rights of refugees, asylum applicants and migrants at the European borders. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2020/fundamental-rights-refugees-asylum-applicants-and-migrants-european-borders>

50. R.A. and Others v. Poland (2021) ECHR 283

51. Council of Europe, European Social Charter, 18 October 1961, ETS 35.

52. Franceinfo. (2021, 29 septembre). « Rentrez » : la Pologne envoie des milliers de SMS aux migrants à sa frontière avec la Biélorussie. https://www.francetvinfo.fr/monde/europe/migrants/rentrez-la-pologne-envoie-des-milliers-de-sms-aux-migrants-a-sa-frontiere-avec-la-bielorusse_4789053.html

Conclusion

The current Polish political upheavals are extremely worrisome. Whether we look at each topic individually or together as we did throughout this report, all of them present a significant cut into core human rights which are essential to secure the freedom of choice and expression of the individual. Furthermore, violations against core human rights put segregated groups at significant risk.

The ban of legal and rightful abortions in clinics with trained medical staff will create an underground scene of illegal pregnancy terminations where not every staff member is trained to help women in the case of complications. Hence, the ban on legal pregnancy terminations endangers the lives of women.

Moreover, even though the government denies any active role in worsening the social stance for LGBTQ+ members, the creation of LGBTQ+ free zones takes away their rightful place in society. In addition, it is contributing to the formation of a platform that allows for the creation of hate and violence against community members.

The increasing number of deaths amongst migrants and asylum seekers at the Polish border in connection to the government's actions to forcefully deny help is a strong indicator of a disturbing backward evolution that goes against every value and morality of democracy, individual freedom and equality. Part of the fundamental rights of a human being always includes the right to decide on matters concerning their own body, their sexual orientation, the ability to live a happy and fulfilled life which includes the option to get married, start a family, or to migrate without fear, threats, or endangerment.

Therefore, the Polish government is compelled to separate strong religious beliefs and lawmaking to an extent that the law protects every citizen of Poland and is not limited to protecting those who share the same spiritual values. A conservative nationalist rule should not undermine the freedom, safety, and rights of individuals. Fundamental human rights represent the core value of not only the European Union but also the international democratic values, which should be a given in 2021.



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