

## Open Letter

Open letter of the Ambassadors of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the General Representative of the Government of Flanders, the CEO of Wallonie-Bruxelles International, the Representative of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region, the Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Poland, the Representatives in Poland of the European Commission and of the UNHCR, the Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration, the Secretary General of the Community of Democracies, and the Regional Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

This letter has been coordinated by the Embassy of the United States of America in Poland.

On the occasion of Pride Month, we express our support for the efforts to raise public awareness of issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) community and other communities in Poland facing similar challenges.

To this end, we acknowledge the efforts of the organizers of the equality parade and marches in Białystok, Bielsko-Biała, Bydgoszcz, Częstochowa, Gdańsk, Gdynia, Gniezno, Gorzów Wielkopolski, Kalisz, Katowice, Kielce, Konin, Koszalin, Kraków, Lublin, Łódź, Milicz, Nowy Sącz, Olsztyn, Opole, Piła, Gryfino, Poznań, Rzeszów, Sanok, Słubice, Szczecin, Toruń, Warsaw, Wrocław, Zielona Góra. This year, we also acknowledge the LGBTQI+ community's contributions to supporting those fleeing the war in Ukraine as an integral part of Polish society.

We affirm the inherent dignity of each individual as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Respect for these fundamental rights, which are also enshrined in OSCE commitments and the obligations and standards of the Council of Europe and the European Union as communities of rights and values, obliges governments to protect all citizens from violence and discrimination and to ensure they enjoy equal opportunities.

To this end, and in particular to shield communities in need of protection from verbal and physical abuse and hate speech, we need to jointly work on an environment of non-discrimination, tolerance, and mutual acceptance.

This includes in particular sectors such as education, health, social affairs, citizenship, public service, and public documents.

We pay tribute to the hard work of LGBTQI+ and other communities in Poland and around the world, as well as the work of all those who seek to ensure human rights for LGBTQI+ and other persons belonging to communities facing similar challenges, and to end discrimination in particular on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Human rights are universal and everyone, including LGBTQI+ persons, are entitled to their full enjoyment.

This is something that everyone should support.

Signed,

H.E. Ana María Ramírez, Ambassador of the Argentine Republic  
H.E. Lloyd Brodrick, Ambassador of Australia  
H.E. Andreas Stadler, Ambassador of Austria  
H.E. Luc Jacobs, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium  
H.E. Leslie Scanlon, Ambassador of Canada  
H.E. Julio Bravo Yubini, Ambassador of Chile  
H.E. Petros Nacouzis, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus  
H.E. Jakub Dürr, Ambassador of the Czech Republic  
H.E. Ole Toft, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark  
H.E. Martin Roger, Ambassador of the Republic of Estonia  
H.E. Juha Ottman, Ambassador of Finland  
H.E. Frédéric Billet, Ambassador of France  
H.E. Arndt Freytag von Loringhoven, Ambassador of Germany  
H.E. Michael-Éfstratios C. Daratzikis, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic  
H.E. María Erla Marelsdóttir, Ambassador of Iceland  
H.E. Emer O'Connell, Ambassador of Ireland  
H.E. Yacov Livne, Ambassador of Israel  
H.E. Aldo Amati, Ambassador of Italy  
H.E. Eduardas Borisovas, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania  
H.E. Paul Schmit, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg  
H.E. Marisa Farrugia, Ambassador of the Republic of Malta  
H.E. Juan Sandoval Mendiola, Ambassador of Mexico  
Ms. Milena Mumin, Chargé d'Affaires a.i., Embassy of Montenegro  
H.E. Daphne Bergsma, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands  
H.E. Alana Hudson, Ambassador of New Zealand  
H.E. Anders H. Eide, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway  
H.E. Luis Cabaço, Ambassador of Portugal  
H.E. Dario Galassi, Ambassador of the Republic of San Marino  
H.E. Božena Forštnarič Boroje, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia  
H.E. NJ Mngomezulu, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa  
Mr. Agustín Anguera, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain  
H.E. Stefan Gullgren, Ambassador of Sweden  
H.E. Jürg Burri, Ambassador of Switzerland  
H.E. Andrii Deshchytsia, Ambassador of Ukraine  
H.E. Anna Clunes, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
H.E. Mark Brzezinski, Ambassador of the United States of America  
Mr. Matteo Meccaci, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights  
Ms. Marzenna Guz-Vetter, Acting Head of Representation, European Commission in Poland  
Mr. Witold Naturski, Head of the European Parliament Liaison Office in Poland  
Mr. Marin Din Kajdomcaj, Representative of UNHCR Representation in Poland  
Mr. Thomas Castrel, General Representative of the Government of Flanders  
Ms. Pascale Delcomminette, CEO of Wallonie-Bruxelles International, Wallonia-Brussels Office in Warsaw  
Mr. Nicolas Neve, Representative of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region  
Mr. Thomas E. Garrett, Secretary General of the Community of Democracies  
Ms. Livia Styp-Rekowska, Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration  
Ms. Elisabetta Falcetti, Regional Director, Head of Central Europe and the Baltic States, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development