



10 September 2020

The Bâtonnier of the Paris Bar Association, the President of the German Bar Association and the Dean of the Warsaw Bar Association of Advocates stand together again to express their utmost concern and stand against the further deterioration of the rule of law in Poland.

As of 2015, we are observing an ongoing crisis, which has been caused, among other factors, by numerous reforms of the judicial system. These reforms have violated the independence of Polish courts, from the Constitutional Tribunal, through the National Council of the Judiciary and common courts to the Supreme Court. Disciplinary proceedings against judges and prosecutors for defending the rule of law or for not issuing decisions in line with political expectations, are being initiated more and more often. All this constitutes a great threat to judicial and prosecutorial independence and creates a chilling effect which jeopardises the legal security of all Polish citizens.

In this context of the dismantlement of the judiciary system and the fundamental principle of separation of powers, it is with grave concern that we also observe the violation of LGBT+ persons' fundamental rights. In particular their freedom of assembly and personal liberties are being undermined. The use of openly discriminatory and anti-LGBT+ language has been not only ignored but permitted and incorporated by politicians belonging to the government's party. Furthermore, criminal proceedings have been initiated against activists who demonstrated for equality and against hate speech.

We urge the Polish government to respect its international and European human rights obligations and therefore to equally treat and protect the rights and freedoms of all members of its society, including those who protest against the policies of the government.

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Dean of the Warsaw
Bar Association of Advocates

Ulrich Schellenberg
Former President of the
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Former President of the
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