

Dear Citizens of Krakow,

**All persons are equal before the law.**

**All persons shall have the right to equal treatment by public authorities.**

**- this is Article 32 of the Constitution.**

Equality, freedom, solidarity, respect and openness are values that have accompanied us since the creation of the Council for Equal Treatment under the Mayor of Krakow. Therefore, in the face of the events of recent days we cannot remain silent. We want to be and are in solidarity with those whom politicians and hierarchs of the Catholic church have dehumanised, defamed and humiliated. LGBT people, i.e. lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons are our friends, relatives, and colleagues. LGBT people are us, too. Politicians and publicists who spread hate speech exclude from society a few million citizens, not only LGBT people, but also their relatives and families: we do not and will not give our consent to this.

As members of the Krakow Council for Equal Treatment, we stand for equality, freedom and openness. We believe in dialogue and cooperation, but based on respect.

Dear lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people: you are not alone, we are with you, we support you and will do everything to make you feel at home in Krakow - because your home is here. Krakow is a vibrant city of diversity - and you and your story are its important component. A few weeks ago, we prepared a handbook for the excluded, which also contains a page about LGBT communities. We have a rainbow in our logo but we also carry it in our hearts.

We have agreed that within the Council for Equal Treatment we want to mainstream issues of equality into urban policy by taking action to develop a model for equal treatment and anti-discrimination at local level. Recent events have shown how important such initiatives are - because LGBT is not an ideology. LGBT is people, Cracovians, who deserve respect and the right to a safe and dignified life.

We also appeal today to the residents of Krakow not to be indifferent. Look around, take care of yourselves and others, support each other. We also want to thank those who have already expressed their support.

In the vision of the Council for Equal Treatment we read that "we want an open and supportive Krakow in which all residents of Krakow are free, equal and committed". Let this be a vision for the whole of Krakow as well.