



LGBTQ+ Rights in Poland

By Isabel Olesinski

2020 Re-election of Andrzej Duda

- Served since 2015
- Five-year term
- Member of Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc a.k.a. PiS (Law and Justice Party)
- Won presidency by 51.03%
- Re-election led to great protests around the country





The Controversial Laws

Abortion

- Near-total ban on abortion
- Only legal if through sexual assault, incest, or if the woman's life is at risk
- Many are performed if the fetus as defects
- The doctors would be responsible, not the woman

LGBTQ+ Rights

- Commonly referred to as “communist propaganda”
- Fear of having children spend time with queer folks
- No hate crime laws
- Banned adoption and marriage
- LGBTQ+-Free Zones

The Protests of 2020







“Strajk Kobiet” (All-Poland Women's Strike)

- Fighting against the abortion ban
 - For legal abortion on-demand, sex education, and contraception that is free of charge
 - October 2020 protests
 - 500,000 people participated in over 400 protests across the country
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- Included banners, street protests, sit-ins in churches and government buildings, graffiti, striking from work, disrupting masses, vandalism, which resulted in instances of police brutality
 - The protests continued throughout January 2021



LGBTQ+ Restrictions

- No legal recognition of same-sex couples
- Same-sex marriage is banned
- Limited cohabitation rights
- No legal adoption
- Lesbian couples do not have access to IVF
- Some hate crime law protection, but not enforced
- Legalized conversion therapy
- LGBT Free Zones (Strefy Wolne od LGBT)

'LGBT-ideology-free' zones

September 2020



Source: atlasnienawisci.pl, OSM, GADM

Status of LGBTQ+ Rights in Poland is Ranked Worst Among European Union Countries





Why?

- Based on 6 categories: (equality and non-discrimination; family; hate crime and hate speech; legal gender recognition and bodily integrity; civil society space; and asylum)
- Produced by ILGA-Europe, a Brussels-based NGO that advocates for the rights of LGBT people and aims to give an overview of the legal situation and social climate for LGBT people in each European country.

Statistics

Support for the recognition of same-sex relationships

- 60% support registered same-sex relationships
- 41% support same-sex marriages
- 21% support adoption rights

According to the 2019 IPSOS survey for OKO Press





Statistics

Polish LGBTQ+ folks' opinions

- 83% avoid holding hands with their same-sex partner (second-highest rate in the EU)
- 51% avoid certain locations for fear of being assaulted (the highest rate in the EU)
- 47% felt discriminated against in at least one area of life in the past year

- 42% were harassed in the past year
- 27% are open about being LGBTQ+
- 26% felt discriminated against at work in the past year
- 15% have been attacked in the past 5 years (the highest rate in the EU)
- 1 in 5 trans and intersex people were physically or sexually attacked in the past five years

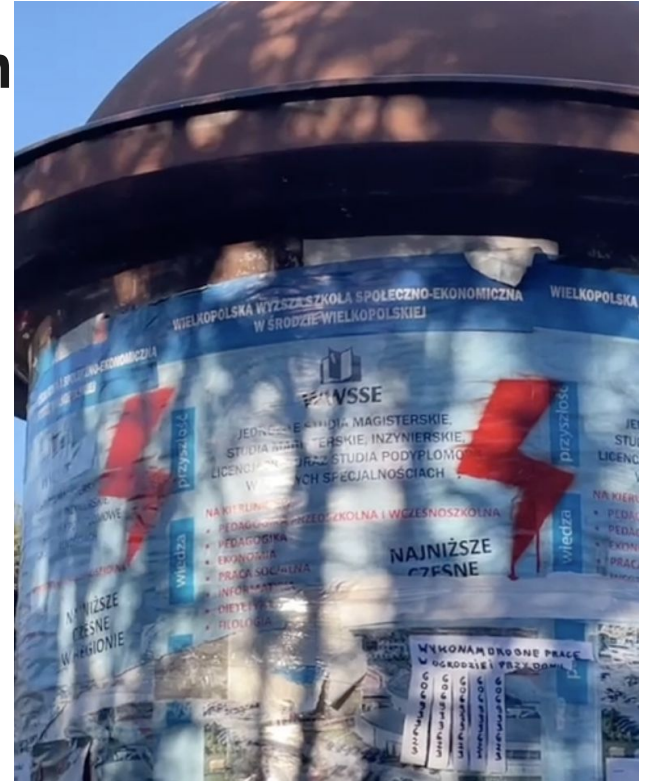
According to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights 2019 EU LGBTI survey



Quotes and Laws by Duda

- Signed the “Family Charter” (opposes same-sex marriage, adoption rights, and sex education in schools)
- Rejected a bill that would have included gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, and age as potential grounds for a ‘hate crime
- Considers LGBTQ+ rights to be an “invasive foreign influence undermining Poland’s traditional values.”
- LGBTQ+ folks are “more destructive than the communists that ruled the country for more than forty years”
- “LGBT are not a people—they are an ideology.”
- “Stop listening to his idiocy about human rights or equality. These people are not equal to normal







“KLER MA KREW NA REKACH”
“THE CLERGY HAS BLOOD ON ITS HANDS”



“RZAD NA BRUK”
“DUMP THE GOV”



“THE SYSTEM WORKS BECAUSE
YOU WORK

“ODZYSK TESKIMY”
“WE MISS OURSELVES”



"ABORCJA BEZ GRANIC"

"JEBAC PIS"

"LEGALNA ABORCJA"

"Jednym kompromisem jest wolność wyboru"

"ABORTION WITHOUT BORDERS"

"FUCK PIS"

"LEGALIZE ABORTION"

"The only compromise is freedom of choice"



“PIEKLO KOBIEI”
“WOMEN’S HELL”



“Nigdt nie bedziesz szla sama”
“You’ll never walk alone (f)”



“PIS MA KREW NA REKACH”
“PIS HAS BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS”





“1312 LGBT JEST OK”
“1312 (ACAB) LGBT IS OK”





Discussion Questions

- Is there a way for Poland to keep its traditional views without causing harm to its citizens?
- What could be a way to bridge the divide between Poland's citizens?
- How far should religion go in controlling what is allowed to be accepted in society at large?
- More and more people are emigrating from Poland due to political and economic reasons. What could Poland do to diversify their current state and foster a better bridge between views?
- Do you believe that a country needs to become more progressive in order to stay relevant in the world? If so, does that ruin the integrity of the country's morals or helps foster a healthy development of ideas?