



**A selection of racist, xenophobic and homophobic events which occurred in Poland in 2019 are monitored by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association and documented in the 'Brown Book'**

**JANUARY 2019**

**ZĄBKI.** On 3<sup>rd</sup> January, two men assaulted a sixteen-year-old high school student on a public bus. *"They started calling me a faggot and an idiot. ... One of them pulled out a knife, whilst the other one moved ahead to block my access to the driver,"* said the victim. He was then punched and threatened multiple times. The boy managed to alert the driver, who stopped the

bus, locked the doors, and called the police. The attackers forced the door open and fled the scene. One of them was wearing a cap with the symbol of the football club, **Legia Warszawa**. The victim says that he was assaulted due to his appearance. *"I have long hair and tight trousers. That's why they attacked me,"*. None of the dozen or so other passengers intervened during the incident.

**CZĘSTOCHOWA.** On 5<sup>th</sup> January, during the Fans' Patriotic Pilgrimage at the Jasna Góra shrine, some hooligans of the football club, **Śląsk Wrocław** sported scarves with the words, 'White Brothers' and the Celtic cross, which is one of the best-known racist symbols, and is used by fascist groups in many countries. The hooligans also displayed scarves with the words, 'Death to enemies of the Fatherland' which is currently used to promote ideologically motivated violence. Hooligans of **Wisła Kraków** present in the monastery of Jasna Góra wore scarves with the nationalist slogan, 'Lviv is a Polish city' in reference to the city which belongs to modern-day Ukraine. Some hooligans from the city of Częstochowa wore scarves with the Confederate flag used during the American Civil War by the South, who were fighting to preserve slavery.

**WARSAW.** On 7<sup>th</sup> January, Bartłomiej Szczęśniak, a sports journalist working for the radio station, Weszło FM, disclosed during a conversation with Paweł Korzeniowski from *Noizz.pl*, a scandalous incident of discrimination in the football community. He said: *"When fans of one of the Polish clubs found out that one of their players was a gay man, they forced the club to expel him"* The journalist declined to disclose the name of the club involved.

**KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA.** On 9<sup>th</sup> January, *Gazeta Krakowska* reported that members of the **Sharks** group, an association of **Wisła Kraków** supporters suspected of criminal activities, had placed antisemitic stickers in the stadium used by the municipal sports club, **Kalwarianka Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** of the Wadowice District League). One of the slogans used was 'Kalwaria bezżydowska' ('a Jewless Kalwaria' - a pun on the name of the town), and contained a crossed out, stereotypical image of a Jew. The stickers were displayed in several places, including the pinboard with the club's regulations, located next to the cash desk. The reader of *Gazeta Krakowska* who informed the editors about this stated: *"Everyone can see this, and no one reacts: nobody is bothered by it. The club buildings have recently been renovated, and these stickers are still in place. I saw them in autumn, when my family and I were buying tickets for a match,"*.

**ŁÓDŹ.** In January, many internet users praised the murder of the Mayor of Gdańsk, Paweł Adamowicz, who was stabbed to death on 13th January by **Stefan W.** at the closing concert of the Great Orchestra of Christmas Charity, and called for murder or violence against other city mayors, including those of Poznań, Wrocław, and Szczecin. Many of these posts can be attributed to far-

right groups or publicly propagated fascism. For example, on 17<sup>th</sup> January, a citizen of Łódź said on **YouTube** that he applauded the murder of Adamowicz, and added that *'he should have been stabbed much more - twenty, fifty, or a hundred times*. When apprehended by the police, the man was wearing a hooligan sweatshirt which read *'We were sent down by God to spread terror and destruction'*. The perpetrator had a tattoo of a *'kotwica'*, or anchor on the neck - a symbol of the resistance of the Polish Underground State against fascism, nowadays adopted by nationalist groups which espouse ideologies close to fascism. The man was charged with publicly condoning a crime. It was not reported whether he stood trial or what outcome of the case was.

**WARSAW.** On 24<sup>th</sup> January, during an evening programme entitled *W Tyle Wizji* (*'Behind TV'*) on the national state-owned television channel, **TVP Info**, the host, **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** with his co-host and former presidential candidate, **Magdalena Ogórek**, verbally attacked Prof. Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of the "NEVER AGAIN" Association, an independent anti-racism group based in Warsaw. The excuse for that attack, which lasted some six minutes, was a critical comment by Pankowski on the Polish Senate's resolution on recognising 2019 as the year of the **League of Seas and Rivers**, also known as the Maritime and Colonial League, a controversial organisation founded before the Second World War, which attempted to acquire colonies for Poland, and reduce its Jewish population. Ziemkiewicz said *"Mr Pankowski is one of the most despicable people I have ever met. ... We are talking about a man who makes a living, and a very decent one, from accusing the Polish people of fascism. He travels around the whole world and talks hogwash about Polish antisemitism."* Then he added: *"He is a terrible person, really awful. ... Unfortunately, there are some people, and Jarosław Kaczyński was right to call them the worst kind of Poles, who are driven by hatred of their own country"*. During the show, Ziemkiewicz quoted an alleged statement by Pankowski, who at a conference *'at some Israeli university'* was supposed to say that *'Polish anti-Semitism is the worst'*. In reality, Pankowski had never made such a statement. Following this attack, the Polish Ombudsman, Adam Bodnar filed a complaint to the National Council of Radio and Television. He wrote in the complaint: *"The comments by Rafał Ziemkiewicz, with no substance and reference to verifiable statements by Prof. Pankowski, could be considered an attempt to discredit his actions, and more broadly - actions against racism and anti-Semitism in Poland. The statements by Ziemkiewicz are problematic in the light of the mission of public media, and they trivialise the danger of such harmful phenomena as hate speech and anti-Semitism."* The National Council did not respond to the complaint.

**RADOM.** On 25<sup>th</sup> January, local media ran stories on racist and fascist stickers present on the streets of Radom. One of the templates included the words, *'F...ck you Israel'* with a crossed-out Star of David, and others came with a threat: *'We remember and shall repeat March '68'* with the Star of David being destroyed by two hammers. In March 1968, the state of Poland started an antisemitic witch-hunt, and forced more than ten thousand people to leave Poland. Another sticker had a crossed-out image of Nelson Mandela with the words, *'Murderer. You will never be a hero for the whites,'*. Another sticker included death threats against anti-fascist activists, with the slogan *Anti-antifa* and an image of a man being assaulted by another man with a knife, and the skull symbol known as the *Totenkopf*, or Death's Head used by the **SS** at concentration camps, with a black sun in the background - also a well-known symbol of Nazism. Another of the templates was homophobic, with a pornographic image and the words, *'No Faggotry. Clean Poland'*.

**POZNAŃ.** During the night of 26th January, 'unknown perpetrators' painted some 40 racist and fascist slogans and symbols in a residential area. On commercial and residential buildings, and garages amongst other places, the following slogans were painted: *'White Power'* (in both Polish and English); *'Fascism Ok!'*; *'Racism Ok!'*; *'Nazi Zone'*; *'Jude Raus'* (*'Jews out'*); *'Anti-antifa'*; *'We will kill you all'*; the Celtic cross, and the numbers 14/88 (the number fourteen stands for the

so-called fourteen words, *'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children,'* said by **David Lane**, the leader of the American terrorist group, **The Order**. This was in turn inspired by a quote from **Mein Kampf** by **Adolf Hitler**. Eighty-eight signifies the words, *'Heil Hitler'*, as *'H'* is the eighth letter of the alphabet. These slogans were painted on the eve of the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp and International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

**OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ.** On 27th January, on the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, far-right leader, **Piotr Rybak**, who was sentenced to three months in prison in 2015 for inciting hatred, organised a march at the National Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, in which antisemitic incidents took place. Rybak made a speech at the event, during which he shouted: *"Are we an independent country? Time to get rid of the Jewry!"* Then he added, *"It is time to rise up and say to those Jewish occupants: enough is enough. This is our country. As usual, that Jewish scum were looking for a provocation and failed, and Poland is for Poles,"* At the entrance to the camp, several counter-protesters held an anti-fascist banner and a flag of Israel. Rybak said to one of them, *"I won't talk to you, you're nobody to me,"* whilst his followers shouted insults and threats like: *'Time to burn'; 'What do you want with that Jewish rag'; 'Israeli provocation';* and *'Show your foreskin and sidelocks'*. The prosecutor's office charged Rybak with public incitement to hatred on national ground. In 2019, the District Court in Oświęcim sentenced him to community service of thirty hours per month for one year – total of 360 hours. Rybak referred to this sentence in a subsequent **YouTube** video in the following way: *"Did I lie? Who are the masters in our homeland? It's us, the Poles, not that Jewish nation which thinks it can do everything. Soon enough, you will all run from this country,"*. Then he added, *"They have forgotten that this is our homeland. They can either assimilate and be our neighbours, or get out to Israel, where their true homeland is. It was created by the Americans who betrayed the Palestinians, and there you can kill women and children. You destroy the Palestinians and you want to do the same with the Poles,"*.

**KŁODZKO.** At the end of January, 'unknown perpetrators' destroyed a monument to the synagogue burnt down by the Germans during the Kristallnacht in 1938. A tablet was ripped out which had inscriptions in Hebrew, German and Polish about the history of that place. Upon the initiative of local social activists, a new tablet was later installed.

## **FEBRUARY 2019**

**JAROCIN.** On 2<sup>nd</sup> February, during an amateur football tournament organised by hooligans of **Jarota Jarocin**, a Fourth Division football club (group II), one of the participants stretched out his arms in the manner of Hitler's *'Sieg Heil'* salute., In addition, the participants of the event displayed a banner with the racist symbol of the Celtic cross.

**GDAŃSK.** On 9<sup>th</sup> February, just before the start of a top-division (Ekstraklasa) football match between **Lechia Gdańsk** and **Pogoń Szczecin**, hooligans supporting the visiting team disrupted the symbolic one-minute silence commemorating the murdered Mayor of Gdańsk, Paweł Adamowicz. Shortly afterwards, fans of Lechia displayed a banner with a symbol intended to look like a Celtic cross, a symbol of so-called white power, in *'The Nest'*, a part of the stadium where cheering for the home side is organised.

**WROCLAW.** On 9<sup>th</sup> February, during an Ekstraklasa match between Śląsk Wrocław and **Zagłębie Sosnowiec**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner on the terraces similar to the **U.S. Confederate flag** - nowadays considered a symbol of white supremacy. The same flag was used in the American Civil War by Southern states which wanted to preserve slavery.

**WARSAW.** On 13<sup>th</sup> February, during an episode of *W Tyle Wizji* ('Behind TV') on the national station, **TVP Info**, co-hosts **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** and **Stanisław Janecki** again smeared Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of the "NEVER AGAIN" Association. The reason for that verbal attack, lasting fifteen minutes, was the fact that Pankowski had been honoured with the Paul Ehrlich-Gunther K. Schwerin Human Rights Award, established by the US-based Anti-Defamation League to recognise people who combat antisemitism in Europe. Ziemkiewicz commented in the following manner: *"We have this one guy here, who for all his life and for decent pay does everything to harm Poland, and for that he has just been made a martyr,"* Co-host, Janecki joined the attack: *"It's very smart on the part of Mr Rafał, that he established "NEVER AGAIN", an association which looks for racism and fascism everywhere. He wrote his PhD thesis, about racism in popular culture, and then he qualified as a professor with his book, The Populist Radical Right in Poland. I have tried to read it. It is so badly written that I have no idea who in the exam committee would accept it as a research paper."* Ziemkiewicz responded, *"But if you try to say that it is not really scientific, then you become antisemitic, a fascist, the whole world will hear about it,"*. Janecki continued, *"For him it's also a business"*, to which Ziemkiewicz added *"A good business!"*. During the programme Ziemkiewicz invented a number of statements by Pankowski, who had never said such words.

**WROCLAW.** During the night of 13th February, the words '*Jesus Is King*' were painted on the walls of the Old Jewish cemetery. On 17<sup>th</sup> February, social activist, Robert Wagner encouraged dozens of local citizens to remove the words. Several hours later, the same words were painted once again. They also appeared on other buildings in the neighbourhood.

**WARSAW.** On 14<sup>th</sup> February, "NEVER AGAIN" received information about an antisemitic painting on a fence in one of the neighbourhoods in Warsaw. The Star of David hanged on gallows, along with the letter, 'ONR' (Obóz Narodowo Radykalny, or the **National Radical Camp** – a fascist organisation with roots in the interwar period) had been painted. Moreover, the graffiti include a Celtic cross, a racist symbol.

**WARSAW.** On 15<sup>th</sup> February, on a programme aired by **Telewizja Republika**, during a conversation with **Emilia Pobłocka**, commentator, **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** yet again smeared Prof. Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of the "NEVER AGAIN" Association. This time, Ziemkiewicz commented on the complaint previously filed by the Polish Ombudsman, Adam Bodnar to the National Council of Radio and Television, in which Bodnar wrote that the statements by Ziemkiewicz on **TVP Info** *'could be considered an attempt to discredit the actions (of Prof. Pankowski), and more broadly - action against racism and antisemitism in Poland'*. Ziemkiewicz declared, whilst inventing quotes by Prof. Pankowski: *"I said on television that that person was despicable and conducts harmful activity, travelling around the world and talking hogwash about growing Nazism in Poland; that we have many fascist organizations; that at Auschwitz you can buy stickers with Heil Hitler on them, etc. Wherever he goes, he makes good money as an expert on Polish antisemitism. We disclosed it on W Tyle Wizji, and Mr Bodnar, who is a disciple of Pankowski - there is a YouTube video in which Bodnar thanks Pankowski for his support - asked the National Council of Radio and Television to examine my case. ... I can say right away - there is nothing to examine here. I wasn't speaking Chinese: there is a recording of what I said, and you can check whether I discredited Pankowski or not. And of course I did, because if someone is a traitor, he deserves to be condemned in public,"*. On the same day, Ziemkiewicz posted the following statement on his official Twitter account: *"What is there to examine, Mr Bodnar? I was clear: your teacher, Pankowski, is despicable, worse than the usual scholarship frauds, because he takes scholarship for smearing Poland. His activity is disgraceful and should be publicly condemned,"*. Ziemkiewicz did not face any consequences from TVP Info, although according to the Code of Media Ethics of TVP, *"Journalists should consider social media as a form of public*

statement, and should remember that he or she represents TVP, and the private comments of journalists known to work with TVP can be considered as supported by TVP,” Section XVI.3).

**WROCLAW.** In mid-February, local citizens removed the slogan, ‘Death to the Enemies of the Homeland’, which had been painted on a shop by hooligans of the football club, **Śląsk Wrocław**. The Vice-President of the Housing Association in question said: “Local residents requested that we take action in the context of the murder of Mayor Paweł Adamowicz in Gdańsk. They decided that the slogan, ‘Death to the Enemies of the Homeland’ is hate speech, and they don’t want to have anything to do with it,”.

**SOSNOWIEC.** On 16<sup>th</sup> February, during an Ekstraklasa football match between Zagłębie Sosnowiec and **Arka Gdynia**, hooligans of the visiting team hung out a flag on the fencing surrounding the pitch with the Nazi symbol known as *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head used by some SS formations during World War Two.

**WARSAW.** On 16<sup>th</sup> February, **Rafał Ziemkiewicz**, a journalist of **TVP Info**, a public television channel, posted the following comment on **Twitter**: “And the worst thing is, you can’t even hate the Jews back because that’s exactly what those sons-of-bitches want,” According to the Code of Media Ethics at TVP, “Journalists should consider social media as a form of public statement, and should remember that he or she represents TVP, and the private comments of journalists known to work with TVP can be considered as supported by TVP,” Section XVI.3). However, TVP failed to react to this antisemitic tweet in any way.

**LUBIN.** On 17<sup>th</sup> February, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Zagłębie Lubin** and **Miedź Legnica**, local hooligans used the official flag of the Roma to insult the opposition team. They displayed a huge Romani flag alongside the flag of Miedź Legnica, hung upside down to demonstrate their contempt. Below that, they displayed a banner on the fences with a slogan which made reference to similarities between the two flags, and was intended to claim that Legnica fans are... Roma. During the match, local hooligans displayed another banner in the colours of the Romani flag, this time with a caricature of a fortune-telling woman, and another slogan which was supposed to insult visiting fans that they are ‘Roma’. Similar slogans were chanted, too. Moreover, some visiting hooligans were seen wearing racist scarves. They depicted the words, ‘White Silesia’ and the Celtic cross (a symbol of *white power*). Other scarves were spotted with the words, ‘Gypsy Hunters’.

**OŚWIĘCIM.** On 18<sup>th</sup> February, during the second match of the first play-off round of the Polish Hockey League between **Unia Oświęcim** and GKS Katowice, local hooligans displayed a banner on the terraces with the symbol of the Celtic cross.

**TORUŃ.** On 20<sup>th</sup> February, during a broadcast on **Radio Maryja**, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz** again mentioned antisemitic conspiracy theories about alleged ‘*Jewish property claims*’ to be directed against Poland. In addition, according to the journalist, the condition for Poland’s admission to NATO in the 1990s was to pay “a bribe in the form of a law on the relationship between the state and Jewish religious communities,”. Michalkiewicz is a permanent collaborator with the media empire belonging to Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk** and one of its main ideologists. He has also worked as a lecturer at the **Higher College of Social and Media Culture in Toruń** which was founded by Rydzyk.

**WARSAW.** On 21<sup>st</sup> February, antisemitic posters were put up around the city. They contained a crossed-out flag of Israel and the words: ‘*Your money - their lies about Poland. Boycott Israeli products*’.

**WARSAW.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, in a conversation broadcast by **Radio Wnet**, **Paweł Kukiz**, a Member of Parliament and leader of the **Kukiz’15** movement, made a number of antisemitic comments. Ascribing alleged financial claims towards Poland to the Jewish people, he said: “*Dignity is secondary to the Jews. Dignity is used to make money,*”. Later on, he added, “*In 1945 they were murdering Poles, serving in the secret police, and now they dare to insult us,*”.

**WROCLAW.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, in the **Wesele** club on św. Mikołaja street, doormen supposedly attacked several customers for homophobic reasons. One of the victims, who had come with his partner, reported: “They commented aloud that we were surely of a different orientation,”. According to him, the doormen used violence when they saw two other men locking arms, and believed (wrongfully) that they were gay. One doorman allegedly shouted, “What is this faggotry! It will not stand here,” and attacked them. He punched one of the men, who hit his head on the counter and fell to the ground. He was covered in blood and was assisted by the bartender. The doorman then attacked another man. Other doormen joined him in the assault. None of those who witnessed the attack intervened. The group was also attacked outside the building. An ambulance was called. One of the victims had a broken nose, another - crushed sinuses, the third –had a damaged jaw, and the fourth a fractured rib. The manager of Wesele denied the attack and told the media that “We have done nothing wrong,”.

**WARSAW.** On 25<sup>th</sup> February, ‘unknown perpetrators’ painted hateful slogans and symbols on the headquarters of an NGO whose activism includes fighting fascism. On the walls and door to the office were the words, ‘*Jude Raus*’ (‘*Jews out*’), and ‘*Death to Traitors*’, in addition to the following symbols: a swastika; the Star of David hanged on the gallows; a Wolfsangel (a type of swastika used by the **SS**); a Celtic cross (a symbol of white power); a sticker saying ‘*F...ck you, Israel*’ with a crossed-out Star of David; and the numbers and the numbers 14/88 (the number fourteen stands for the so-called fourteen words, ‘*We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children,*’ said by **David Lane**, the leader of the American terrorist group, **The Order**. This was in turn inspired by a quote from *Mein Kampf* by Adolf Hitler. Eighty-eight signifies the words, ‘**Heil Hitler**’, as ‘*H*’ is the eighth letter of the alphabet.

**ZABRZE.** On 27<sup>th</sup> February, during the quarter-finals of the Polish Football Cup between Górnik Zabrze and **Lechia Gdańsk**, hooligans supporting the visiting club displayed a banner with a symbol intended to look like a Celtic cross, the symbol of the so-called white power.

**WARSAW.** At the end of February, ‘unknown perpetrators’ painted the words ‘*Jews Go Away*’. One of the residents notified the Municipal Guard. Thanks to that intervention, the manager of the building had the graffiti painted over.

## **MARCH 2019**

**LUBLIN.** On 1<sup>st</sup> March, the **National Radical Camp (ONR)** and **All-Polish Youth (MW)** marched through the city to mark The National Day of Remembrance of the [so called] Cursed Soldiers, a group of anti-communist guerrillas which operated in Poland after 1945, chanting extremely nationalist slogans. They also shouted threats when passing the centre of the Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre, which honours the Lublin Jews murdered during World War Two. Next approaching the

Krakow Gate, the radical demonstrators chanted insults directed at people peacefully picketing against the march calling them 'Pedals', an offensive Polish term used in relation to homosexuals.

**TORUŃ.** On 1<sup>st</sup> March, an antisemitic incident occurred during the official celebrations of The National Day of Remembrance of The [so called] Cursed Soldiers, a group of anti-communist guerrillas which operated in Poland after 1945. A right-wing municipal councillor participating in the ceremony displayed a banner with the following text: 'Jews from the Security Service murdered Poles'. According to the reports of those present, none of the representatives of the local authority reacted or intervened.

**WARSAW.** On 1<sup>st</sup> March, on the occasion of the National Day of Remembrance of the [so called] Cursed Soldiers, a group of anti-communist guerrillas which operated in Poland after 1945, a march organised by the **Independence March Association, National Radical Camp (ONR), and All-Polish Youth (MW)** proceeded through the streets of the capital. Its participants chanted, 'Death to enemies of the homeland!' and 'Bury - our hero' **Romuald 'Bury' Rajs** commanded a branch of the **National Military Union** which was responsible for crimes verging on genocide committed against orthodox Belarusians in Podlasie in 1946. One of the demonstrators also exposed a banner with the following text: 'There were too many Jews, including the March emigrants, who murdered the [so called] Cursed Soldiers'. When the march reached the Embassy of Ukraine, its participants shouted, "From the cradle to the grave, Polish Vilnius, Polish Lviv!". Further on, on Rakowiecka Street and on the Trzech Krzyży Square, they chanted antisemitic slogans towards a group of people who had gathered to rally against neo-fascism. The supporters of ONR and MW shouted, "Back to Israel, Moshe!", "Off to Israel!" and "You Semitic Nits". A police removed the anti-fascist group from the route of those marching, but they did nothing to intervene in the face of aggressive behaviour on the part of right-wing demonstrators. Nor was there any reaction from the officials from Warsaw City Council, who could have chosen to stop the march.

**WARSAW.** On 1<sup>st</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Legia Warszawa** and Miedź Legnica, local hooligans displayed a huge banner reading 'Warsaw Free from Faggotry' and the letters, 'LGBT' crossed out. On another banner they demonstrated support for the windsurfer,



**Zofia Klepacka**, who had posted a series of homophobic comments online reacting to the news that Mayor of Warsaw, Rafał Trzaskowski had signed a declaration entitled 'Warsaw Urban Policy for the LGBT+ Community'. This declaration aims to improve the lives of LGBT+ people living in Warsaw. Following the incident, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined Legia Warszawa PLN 30,000 (approximately €7,000). It was not announced whether the fine was related to the homophobic banner.

**WROCLAW.** On 1<sup>st</sup> March, **Roman Zieliński**, a leader of football hooligans supporting **Śląsk Wrocław**, and author of a book entitled 'How I Love Adolf Hitler', together with **Jacek Międlar**, a former priest and activist of the extreme right, organised a march on the occasion of The National Day of Remembrance of The [so called] Cursed Soldiers, a group of anti-communist guerrillas which operated in Poland after 1945. Participants of the demonstrations, which included supporters

of the **National Movement (RN)**, displayed a huge banner with the slogan, 'Death to enemies of the homeland', which was also chanted, alongside displaying flags with Celtic crosses, symbols which are well-known to be associated with racism and the far right. They also shouted "Jewish communists worse than the Nazis" and 'Baptised with penknives' (relating to Jews). The city authority dissolved the assembly, and in response to this decision, Międlar along with other demonstrators chanted "Down with the Jewish occupation". Zieliński complained to the court about the decision of the authority. On 19th April, 2019, the District Court in Wrocław decided that the decision to dissolve the march was appropriate. The judgment included an explanation that the slogans chanted by the demonstrators "... were aimed at inciting hatred and insults on the grounds of belonging to a Jewish community group,".



**WAŁBRZYCH.** On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, on Piaskowa Góra Street, a group of some twenty hooligans of **Górnik Wałbrzych** assaulted a Food Not Bombs event - a global social movement which delivers vegetarian meals to people in need. The hooligans threw stones and bottles at the activists, and warned them not to help 'hobos'.

**WARSAW.** On 5<sup>th</sup> March, **Zbigniew Boniek**, president of the Polish Football Association (PZPN), posted the following statement on Twitter: "*Instead of banging LGBT into our children, I propose the promotion of PSCF (Park, Sport, Competition, Friendship),*" This extremely negative reaction referred to the signing by Warsaw Mayor, Rafał Trzaskowski of a declaration containing proposals for the improvement of the safety of people belonging to sexual minorities, and protection against discrimination. In March and April 2019, a series of homophobic incidents occurred in football stadiums, which were ignored by the president of PZPN.

**TORUŃ.** On 6<sup>th</sup> March, during a broadcast on **Radio Maryja**, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz** a journalist and one of the main mouthpieces of the media empire belonging to Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, stated that during the Soviet occupation in the Eastern Borderlands, "*not only were the Jews isolated from the Polish population, but a vast majority of them had joined the enemy forces and rendered valuable services to them as militia and as informers,*". He also added: "*When in 1944 and 1945 the Red Army occupied Polish territory, Stalin proceeded to cut off the head of the Polish nation, starting with the extermination of those who showed character and leadership skills. Naturally, he did not do it personally, but used ... Jews who willingly joined the apparatus of terror,*". Michalkiewicz's speech was also broadcast on **Telewizja Trwam**.

**BLIŻYN.** On 7<sup>th</sup> March, the "NEVER AGAIN" Association was notified about an antisemitic slogan painted on a wall around one of the houses in the local area. Some hooligans had painted the words 'Żydzew Łódź' combining the words 'Żyd' - Jew and 'Widzew' - a Łódź-based football club.

**WARSAW.** On the night of 8<sup>th</sup> March, a group of people chanted xenophobic insults and beat up a citizen of Ukraine, an employee of a transport company. Whilst driving between Wolska Street and Dworzec Zachodni (Warsaw West Railway Station), a group of passengers (three men and three women) demanded that the driver turned on a disco polo music station. His reply was that there was no radio on the vehicle, and that he could only play songs from his mobile phone, following which the passengers began to behave aggressively. They said that if the driver did not listen to disco polo

music, he *'did not respect the country he had come to,'* and they called towards him: *'f...ing Ukrainian, go back to your own place.'* Fearing for his safety, the driver parked at a stop near Warsaw West Railway Station, and asked everyone to leave the bus. The men then pulled him off of the bus and beat him up. They called him, amongst other things, *'you Ukrainian whore'* and *'w...ing piece of junk'*. The driver notified the police about the incident. The matter was investigated by the Warsaw-Ochota District Prosecutor's Office. On 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, in a media statement, Łukasz Łapczyński, a spokesman for the District Prosecutor's Office, said: *"The analysis of the materials collected does not indicate that the incident occurred for reasons of the nationality of the aggrieved party. We are investigating a possible offence of assault,"*.

**WROCLAW.** On the night of 8th March, antisemitic and fascist inscriptions and symbols were painted on buildings housing several non-governmental organisations and institutions. On Paulina Street, on the façade of the office of the Association for the Integration of Multicultural Society (NOMADA), the following threats appeared: *'Death to the leftist whores, we shall f... kill you, you Shabbat goys,'*. A sign reading *'F... kill the feminists'* together with a Celtic Cross - a symbol of so-called white supremacy - was hung on the window of the Firlej Centre for Artistic Activities on Grabiszyńska Street. Robert Chmielewski, the director of this institution, explained how he understood the reasons for the attack: *"It's all about our actions .... We strive to support not only cultural diversity, but also equal rights for women or LGBT communities,"* Furthermore, the Celtic cross sign was placed on the viaduct on Bardzka Street. On 7<sup>th</sup> March, the same sign with the inscription *'F... kill the leftists'* was painted at the entrance gate to *'Hart'*, the Artistic Riverside Courtyard located on Rydygiera Street, a place known for organising cultural events popularising the latest art and music.

**GDYNIA.** On 9<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Arka Gdynia** and Legia Warszawa, local hooligans displayed banners with the Totenkopf, or Death's Head - a characteristic skull used by the **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps. One of the banners was exposed in the so-called *'Nest'*, a place where cheering is organised, and the other one on the terraces.

**WROCLAW.** On 9<sup>th</sup> March, during his journey on a PKP Intercity train to Poznań, **Ireneusz Lisiak**, a writer and journalist of the extremely nationalistic magazine *'Myśl Polska'* (*The Polish Thought*) - made a number of homophobic comments. In an exchange with his fellow travellers, he said that he was upset that his *"grandchildren will have to pay for all those libertines who do not have children, who are in pedal [abusive term for a gay person – editor's note] relationships,"*. He was also aggressive towards others. Passengers reported the situation to the conductor's crew who called the police. The officers led Lisiak off of the train in Wroclaw. PKP Intercity issued the following statement on this matter: *"The behaviour of this passenger exceeded the limits of accepted principles of social coexistence, and disrupted the peaceful journey of other passengers. We wish to assure you that it was not about the views of the traveller,"*.

**WARSAW.** On 10<sup>th</sup> March, the police were informed about fascist symbols painted on the building of Krasiński Library on Okólnik Street. The following signs were found on the wall: a swastika, a Star of David on the gallows, the so-called Wolf's Hook (a stylised swastika used by the **Waffen-SS** divisions) as well as the numbers the numbers 14/88 (the number fourteen stands for the so-called fourteen words, *'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children,'* said by **David Lane**, the leader of the American terrorist group, **The Order**. This was in turn inspired by a quote from *Mein Kampf* by **Adolf Hitler**. Eighty-eight signifies the words, *'Heil Hitler'*, as *'H'* is the eighth letter of the alphabet. Moreover, there was also a *'C18'* sign on the wall, referring to

**Combat 18** – a neo-Nazi terrorist organisation; the number 18 signifies Hitler’s initials, that is, the first and the eight letters in the alphabet).

**GDAŃSK.** On 11<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Lechia Gdańsk** and Wisła Płock, local hooligans displayed a huge banner reading ‘*Sodomites, Faggots and LGBT Paedophiles! Hands off our Children!*’. The management of Lechia failed to issue any statement which would condemn the incident. Following the incident, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined Lechia Gdańsk PLN 5,000 (approximately €1,100).

**OPOLE.** On 12<sup>th</sup> March, during the quarter finals of the Polish Cup between **Odra Opole** and Jagiellonia Białystok, local hooligans displayed a red-and-white banner stylised to resemble the logo of Blood and Honour, an international neo-Nazi organisation. The name, **Blood and Honour** was taken from the motto of *Hitlerjugend* (the Hitler Youth).

**TORUŃ.** On 13<sup>th</sup> March, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz** once again made false statements on **Radio Maryja** about alleged Jewish claims, according to which “*Poland, on the order of the United States, must pay Jews over \$300 billion,*” Michalkiewicz also stated: “*We had quickly come to realise that we would have to pay a bribe for Poland joining NATO. Not to the Americans, God forbid, but to the Jews. This bribe took the form of the statute on the state’s relationship with Jewish religious groups, which contained provisions on the transfer of real estate to the nine Jewish communities existing in Poland at the time, and to the World Organization for the Restitution of Jewish Property based in New York,*” This was also broadcast on **Telewizja Trwam**. Comments related to the alleged claims by Jews against Poland have been repeated for many years in Michalkiewicz’s antisemitic journalism.

**RADOM.** On 14<sup>th</sup> March, in an interview on **Radio Plus Radom**, Fr. Dr. **Marek Dziewiecki**, lecturer at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and a member of the National Council of Pastoral Care Vocations, made statements offensive to people belonging to sexual minorities. Journalist, **Radosław Mizera** began the interview with the following question: “*Why is the introduction of LGBT promotion in schools a bad thing? I am looking for a simple explanation to give to parents and teachers. Why should they oppose it?*” Fr. Dziewiecki replied: “*The aim of the lesbian and gay, bisexual, transsexual, and plus associations, and the ‘plus’ can include all the other sexual minorities, that is, paedophiles, zoophiles, necrophiles - let’s talk about them aloud - the aim of this type of association is to bring about a situation, in which young people and adults will turn into infertile sex maniacs.*” Mizera also asked, “*Please explain why no responsible educator should allow homosexuality and other similar attitudes to be promoted in school.*”, and Fr. Drzewiecki replied: “*It would be like promoting, for example, gluttony, and you would also need to promote crime as criminals are also a minority. You would need to promote every person who, for example, being a man, can convince possibly himself, but certainly other people that he is a woman. You would really have to promote everything and everyone,*” Fr. Drzewiecki also made the following statement about LGBT people: “*Those who make up infertile and oversexed couples, whose lifestyle is very much related to paedophilia, early death, violence, addiction, and a higher percentage of suicides, they go out into the streets and they boast about it. For what purpose? Only to look for more victims, to draw others into the same lifestyle,*”.

**WARSAW.** On 14<sup>th</sup> March, one of the residents of Tatarkiewicz Street in Warsaw, 37-year-old **Dominik Z.** attacked his neighbour for homophobic reasons. He shouted to him “*You pedal!*” (‘*pedal*’ is an abusive term for a gay person), and punched him in the face. The victim suffered a broken orbital bone. In a statement made to the media, he confirmed that the perpetrator of the attack had been tormenting him for at least a year, and explained, “*Whenever he sees me, he calls*

*me a pedal or a whore and tells me to f...-off from the estate. Such situations have happened many times, even when he saw me in the company of my family or friends,”.*

**PŁOCK.** On 15<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Wisła Płock** and Pogoń Szczecin, local hooligans displayed a huge banner with the slogan, *‘The whole of Poland shouts together, a depraved ideology will not hurt our children,’*. The banner formed part of a homophobic protest against the declaration signed in February 2019 by the Mayor of Warsaw, Rafał Trzaskowski in order to improve the safety of sexual minorities. In response to this act, hooligans throughout the whole of Poland displayed flags and banners expressing their contempt towards the LGBT community. The Polish Football Association (PZPN) failed to fine the club for this incident.

**GDAŃSK.** On the night of 15th March, supporters of the extremely nationalist group, **Stormtroopers**, vandalised three vegan restaurants: Vegan Port on Jesionowa Street, Falowiec on Obrońców Wybrzeża Street, and Avocado on Wajdeloty Street. They placed posters on the doors and windows of each of them, displaying the threat, *‘We will f...ing kill you, you leftist whores’*, the slogan, *‘There is never enough fascism and racism in the Tri-City’* together with the symbol of the Celtic cross, which is connected with various ‘white power’ groups, and a characteristic graphic calling for violence against their so-called ideological enemies (depicting a man attacking another person). These posters were signed *‘Greetings from the Stormtroopers’*. The perpetrators had also stuck stickers on the walls of the restaurants with the symbol of the black sun, which was used by the **SS**, the inscriptions, *‘Homo [-sexuality – editor’s note] means deviation’* and *‘White power’*, as well as the skull symbol known as *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head, previously used, by members of **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps, amongst others. Furthermore, on the door of one of the restaurants numbers 14/88 (the number fourteen stands for the so-called fourteen words, *‘We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children,’* said by **David Lane**, the leader of the American terrorist group, **The Order**. This was in turn inspired by a quote from **Mein Kampf by Adolf Hitler**. Eighty-eight signifies the words, *‘Heil Hitler’*, as ‘H’ is the eighth letter of the German alphabet. The police detained a woman and two men suspected of vandalising the restaurants and expressing death threats. During the search of their apartments, numerous materials containing fascist and racist content were found. *“Computers, leaflets, and clothing that suggest connections with organisations with extreme nationalist views have been secured,”* said Karina Kamińska, a spokeswoman for the Municipal Police Headquarters in Gdańsk.

**WROCLAW.** In the second half of March, an unrecognised man travelling on the tram number 5 towards Książę Małe, attacked two Ukrainian citizens. Hearing that they were talking in their mother tongue, he began to behave aggressively towards them. To avoid confrontation, the Ukrainians got off the bus at the nearest stop, but the man followed them and beat one of them up. The police and an ambulance were called to the scene. The man was arrested and charged with inflicting violence against others due to their nationality.

**BIAŁYSTOK.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Jagiellonia Białystok** and Korona Kielce, local hooligans displayed a homophobic flag. It read *‘One hundred percent anti LGBT’*.

**BRZESKO.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during the Fourth Division match between **Okocimski KS Brzesko** and Tarnovia Tarnów, local hooligans along with their guests from **Unia Tarnów**, chanted the following insults about the visiting team: *“Jews are burning”* and *“Barrack six, Cyclone B, F..ck Tarnovia”*. They also chanted the second slogan on their way to the stadium.

**BYDGOSZCZ.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during a local football match between **Zawisza Bydgoszcz** and **Promień Kowalewo Pomorskie**, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner. It read *'This is Poland and not Brussels: we don't support deviants here'*, along with the crossed-out letters, *'LGBT'*.

**GDYNIA.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during a Third Division football match between **Bałtyk Gdynia** and **Gwardia Koszalin**, local hooligans displayed a banner with the crossed-out acronym, *'LGBT'* and the slogan, *'Bałtyk Gdynia against deviants'*.

**OLSZTYN.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during a First Division football match between **Stomil Olsztyn** and **Wigry Suwałki**, local hooligans displayed a banner with the crossed-out letters, *'LGBT'* and the slogan, *'We have a simple message: let's protect children from perverts,'*.

**RZESZÓW.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during a Second Division football match between **Resovia Rzeszów** and **Widzew Łódź**, visiting hooligans from **Tomaszów Mazowiecki** displayed a flag with the slogan, *'F. k Pejsovia'*. *'Pejs'* means *'sidelock'*, and is used as an antisemitic slur by hooligans in Poland. Moreover, on a train to Rzeszów, some **Widzew** hooligans wore t-shirts bearing the slogan, *'Jew Hunters'*, (of which they took pictures of themselves wearing for social media).



**WARSAW.** On 16<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Legia Warszawa** and **Śląsk Wrocław**, visiting hooligans displayed a homophobic banner. It contained the slogan, *'Anywhere and anytime we will fight faggotry, paedophilia, and deviants'*, and the crossed-out letters, *'LGBT'*. Following the incident, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined the club PLN 5,000 (approximately €1,100). Moreover, hooligans of **Legia Chelmska** who had travelled to this match also displayed a homophobic flag. It contained the slogan, *'Stop the perverts'*, and the crossed-out letters, *'LGBT'*. An image of the banner was later posted on social media. On the day of the match, some of its attendees spotted stickers with the words, *'F...k the gypsy wh...res'*, signed by the hooligans of **Wisła Olkusz**. This anti-Roma slur was aimed against **GKS Katowice**. It is unknown for how long the stickers had been on display.

**KRAKÓW.** On 17<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Wisła Kraków** and **Cracovia**, hooligans of the home team performed the following chants towards the opposition club: *"The cities are singing, the villages are singing: this Jewish club is the biggest whore," "F... the Jews, the sons-of-bitches"*, as well as *"You f...ing Jews, we remain well above you,"*. When the fans of **Cracovia** fired flares, the fans of **Wisła** chanted *"Jews are burning"*. The **Wisła** authorities issued a statement regarding the incident at the stadium: *"Wisła Krakow has always firmly opposed and opposes all manifestations of antisemitism and xenophobia, supporting the fight against racial and national intolerance. All people associated with the club wish to actively spread the truth and historical knowledge, with an emphasis on education relating to the tragedies which have in the past affected both the Polish and Jewish nations,"*. In response to the behaviour of the hooligans, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) punished **Wisła** with a fine of PLN 20,000 (approximately €4,700) and the closure of sector C (tribunes C1-C5) for one match, suspended for twelve months.

**CZĘSTOCHOWA.** On 17<sup>th</sup> March, during a First Division match between **Raków Częstochowa** and Bruk-Bet Termalica Nieciecza, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner. It contained a slur and the crossed-out acronym, ‘*LGBT*’.

**LUBIN.** On 17<sup>th</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Zagłębie Lubin** and **Arka Gdynia**, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner on the terraces. It contained the slogan, ‘*Lubin and Gdynia against deviants*’, and the crossed-out acronym, ‘*LGBT*’. Moreover, Arka hooligans displayed a banner with the *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol - a characteristic skull used by the SS during the Second World War. Following the incident, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined the club PLN 5,000 (approximately €1,100).

**PRZEMYŚL.** On 17<sup>th</sup> March, during a Fourth Division football match between Polonia Przemyśl and Igloopol Dębica, hooligans of **Unia Oświęcim**, allies of the visiting team, displayed a racist banner on the terraces. It displayed a Celtic cross, a symbol of white power.

**WARSAW.** On 18<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. **Grzegorz Braun**, a candidate in the European Parliament elections from the list of the **Confederation of KORWiN, Braun, Liroy, and Nationalists**, when interviewed by **Marcin Rola**, in a live broadcast via **YouTube** on **Real24**, an internet TV channel, made the following statement: “*Nowadays I am in favour of the penalisation of homosexual activity in general,*” When asked to elaborate by the host who asked, “*In general?, Completely?*”, he answered in the affirmative, and added, “*Yes, I postulate that sodomy as such is deserves to be punished*”. During the interview he used other abusive expressions for homosexual people, including: “*There will be no perverts raising our children,*” Referring to Robert Biedroń, former Mayor of Słupsk and the leader of the Wiosna (‘*Spring*’) group, he said: “*A public and professional sodomite – he should go to prison,*”. Since the beginning of 2019, internet TV programmes on Real24 have been broadcast from a studio located in the historic building of PAST (the Polish Telecoms company), a symbol of one of the greatest victories of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising. The “*NEVER AGAIN*” Association attempted to intervene in the matter of renting PAST premises to an internet television channel known for the regular spreading of hatred, but the capital authorities neglected to take any action in this matter.

**VIENNA (AUSTRIA)** On 21<sup>st</sup> March, during a qualification match for the European Championships between Austria and Poland, hooligans of **Wisła Płock** displayed a banner with the slogan, ‘*Freedom for Janusz Waluś*’, and an image of the killer. In 1993, **Janusz Waluś** migrated to South Africa and murdered Chris Hani, a local politician and social anti-apartheid activist. For several years, the Polish far-right has voiced its support for Waluś, and has called for his release. Waluś is serving a life sentence in South Africa, and has never expressed remorse for his crime.



**DĘBICA.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, during a Fourth Division match between **Igloopol Dębica** and Wisłoka Dębica, hooligans of the host club displayed a banner with a Celtic cross, a racist symbol of white power.

**RADZYŃ PODLASKI.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, during a Third Division match between **Orleńta Radzyń Podlaski** and Stal Rzeszów, local hooligans displayed a banner with the crossed-out acronym, ‘*LGBT*’. The banner was made to resemble a ‘*STOP*’ sign.

**WARSAW.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, **Jacek Międlar**, a former Catholic priest and extreme right activist, posted video on **YouTube**, in which he praised **Brenton Tarrant**, the perpetrator of a terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand. On 15th March, 2019 Tarrant murdered 49 people participating in prayers in two mosques. In his live broadcast, Międlar made comments referring to Tarrant's '*manifesto*' published on the internet prior to the attack on the mosques. Międlar described the perpetrator's motives as follows: "*He emphasises why he, as an Australian, has to defend Europe. This is very honourable of him and very important. ... Many of the statements by the New Zealand bomber are truly noble - they are statements that you and I identify with,*". Międlar then added "*What does it mean to stand up for the protection of white Europe? It means saying a firm 'no' to the propaganda that leads to the mixing of different races: the mixing of the black race with the white race, and the mixing of different cultures,*". According to this former priest, the perpetrator of the Christchurch massacre wanted to take action leading '*to a heated social debate about the destruction of Europe, about the fertility of Muslims and the low fertility of the white man,*'. Later in the video, Międlar stated that the term '*multiculturalism*' means: "*flooding white Europe, i.e. destroying the white race. We shouldn't deal with this problem with guns, swords, or beheadings. However, in self-defence ... it can be necessary to use a knife, a gun, some kind of force*". In summary, he stated: "*Brenton had the right to behave this way. Why? Because he saw in what direction this allegedly civilised world is going... What he did and the message he gave us is very important, and it should be read in the spirit of philosophical theory of positivism,*". Finally, Międlar stated: "*the main denominator of [Brenton's] manifesto is correct: to stand up for the white race, white Europe,*". Suspecting a public offence of inciting hatred on the basis of national, ethnic and religious differences, as well as the crime of publicly praising the possibility of a mass killing against a group of people, Ombudsman, Adam Bodnar appealed to the District Prosecutor's Office in Warsaw to initiate official proceedings. There has been no public statement confirming whether or not the prosecutor's office has taken action on this matter.

**ZĄBKŁ.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, during a Fourth Division football match between **Ząbkovia Ząbkł** and Drukarz Warszawa, local hooligans displayed a banner with the crossed-out acronym, '*LGBT*'.

**ŻUROMIN.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> March, during a Fourth Division football match between Wkrą Żuromin and **MKS Ciechanów**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan, '*Polish schools and streets should be free from queers*', and another with the crossed-out acronym, '*LGBT*'.

**CHORZÓW.** On 24<sup>th</sup> March, during a Second Division football match between **Ruch Chorzów** and Rozwój Katowice, local hooligans displayed an anti-LGBT banner. The slogan was: '*Sick ideas of leftist trash, keep them away from our children*', and was accompanied by a rainbow flag.

**LUBIEŃ.** On 27<sup>th</sup> March, information about an antisemitic inscription appeared on the website of '*Tygodnik Podhalański*', a local news organisation. The slogan, '*Mszana Dolna free from Jews!*' had been painted on the sound barrier near the junction of the Zakopianka road with the road leading to Mszana Dolna.

**WARSAW.** On 27<sup>th</sup> March, a member of the **Law and Justice (PiS)** party, **Elżbieta Kruk**, was asked by the journalist, Andrzej Stankiewicz, "*Will the Lublin region be the first region free of LGBT?*". Kruk responded: "*I think that Poland will be a region free from LGBT,*" The journalist's question was a sarcastic reference to a draft declaration prepared by Lublin's PiS councillors, declaring the city '*free of LGBT ideology*'. He also mentioned that such a document had been adopted in the Powiat (district) of Świdnica, '*and other parts of the region were to follow, so it looks like your whole region will be free from LGBT*', which Kruk acknowledged with: "*I hope so,*".

She also added: “It means that there would be no promotion of it, no such ideology here, and as to the abbreviation, they are lesbians, gays, bisexuals and those of changeable sex,”.

**DĄBROWA GÓRNICZA.** On the night of 28th March in Zielona Park the inscriptions, ‘*The Jews from TVN have caused trouble amongst Poles*’, and ‘*The Jews from TVN and Onet have caused trouble amongst Poles*’ were painted on the walls of two alleys. The signs contained a number of misspelt words. Local media reported that the same antisemitic slogans had appeared in the middle of March in several other places in the city: on acoustic barriers on 11 Listopada Street; on the main boulevard over the Pogoria III water reservoir; near the car park on Unruga Street over Pogoria IV reservoir, as well as on billboards by National Road no. 94. The same inscriptions were also painted in the towns of **CZELADŹ** and **BĘDZIN**.

**WARSAW.** On 29<sup>th</sup> March, during a broadcast of the national station, **TVP Info** in a programme entitled *W Tyle Wizji* (‘*Behind TV*’), co-hosts **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** and **Stanisław Janeki** once again smeared Prof. Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of the “NEVER AGAIN” Association, this time for approximately ten minutes, in reaction to his participation in a panel discussion on hate speech organised by Ombudsman Adam Bodnar at the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews (*Polin*) earlier that day. Referring to previous episodes of the programme, Ziemkiewicz said: “*When we disclosed what nonsense Pankowski says in the Western media, he took offence and ran away to his friends, crying that it is a great antisemitism because he’s under attack. And immediately some big-wig from the Anti-Defamation League came to give him an award. An award for the fact that he has been exposed by antisemitic Polish Television as a fake scientist who talks complete hogwash,*”. In reality, Pankowski was honoured with the Paul Ehrlich-Gunther K. Schwerin Human Rights Award (established by the US-based Anti-Defamation League) for his long-time activity against antisemitism in Europe. Ziemkiewicz yet again invented a statement by Pankowski that Poland ‘*is the most fascist country in Europe*’ (which Pankowski has never said). Moreover, during the attack, Ziemkiewicz showed a supposed photograph of Rafał Pankowski from many years back, in which he was allegedly performing ‘*a characteristic Anders Breivik salute*’. Breivik is a racist terrorist who on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2011 staged two terrorist attacks killing 77 people. Ziemkiewicz tried to imply that Pankowski had in the past been a supporter of Breivik.

**SŁUPSK.** On 30<sup>th</sup> March, during a Fourth Division football match between **Gryf Słupsk** and **Kaszubia Kościerzyna**, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner. It contained the words, ‘*No to LGBT Sodomites*’.



**TARNÓW.** On 30<sup>th</sup> March, during a Fourth Division football match between **Unia Tarnów** and **Okocimski KS Brzesko**, local hooligans displayed an anti-LGBT banner.

**WARSAW.** During the night of 30<sup>th</sup> March, on Zgoda street, an unidentified attacker, likely motivated by homophobia, assaulted a customer of the Pianka z Tanka restaurant. as the victim was leaving the restaurant. Reporting to the media, the victim said, “*He rushed towards me. I remember him hitting me. I held my phone, I started filming him. You can see the attacker’s face. ...I regained consciousness in a car park nearby,*” As a result of the attack, the man suffered facial and eye injuries, in addition to having a broken knee-cap. He had been sitting in the restaurant with two friends. He said, “*We were joking. It was clear from our conversation that I was gay. The attacker might have overheard this and that is why he assaulted me later,*”. According to the victim, the attacker was an employee of the Pianka z Tanka restaurant, although the manager has denied this.

**CHEŁM.** On 31<sup>st</sup> March, during a Third Division football match between **Chelmianka Chelm** and Orleńta Radzyń Podlaski, local hooligans displayed an anti-LGBT banner. It contained a 'STOP' sign and the crossed-out acronym, '~~LGBT~~'.

**GOŁKÓW.** On 31<sup>st</sup> March, **Maciej Borowicz**, a contestant of the TV programme, **Big Brother** (broadcast by the TVN7 TV station) made homophobic threats towards another contestant, Łukasz Darlak. Speaking to another contestant, **Karolina Wnęk**, he said: "*When I'm off of the show, I will f...ing beat the hell out of him. Really, if I see him at the series finale, I will f...ing smack him in the gob,*" to which the woman replied, "*I will help you,*". The show's producers decided to remove Borowicz from the programme. During the programme, in the '*Diary Room,*' Łukasz Darlak referred to himself as a bisexual person, and he was harassed multiple times by other contestants for his sexual orientation.

**KRAKÓW.** On 31<sup>st</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Wisła Kraków** and Legia Warszawa, local hooligans displayed a banner with the crossed-out acronym, '~~LGBT~~' and the words, '*Wisła against faggotry*'. It was the latest in a long line of homophobic acts during major football matches in Poland.

**SZCZECIN.** On 31<sup>st</sup> March, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Pogoń Szczecin** and Jagiellonia Białystok, local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan, '*Fags, paedos and other deviants- there's no room for you in Szczecin*' and the crossed-out acronym, '~~LGBT~~'. Following the incident, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined the club PLN 5,000 (approximately €1,100).

**CZĘSTOCHOWA.** At the end of March, unknown perpetrators once again caused damage to the Jewish cemetery on Złota Street. At the tomb of Tzadik Pinchas Menachem Justman (1848-1920), they destroyed the space designed for *kvitels*, the prayer cards left by the Hasidic Jews, and an information board. They also damaged one matzeva.

## **APRIL 2019**

**WARSAW.** On 1<sup>st</sup> April, in a conversation broadcast on the **Powisłe Educational Centre** channel on **YouTube**, a Member of Parliament, Mr. **Robert Majka**, who by recommendation of the **Kukiz'15** movement was appointed as a member of the Tribunal of State, won a seat in the Polish Parliament running from the list of the aforementioned movement, and later allied with the **Confederation** ('*Konfederacja*') party, recommended to viewers the book, '*Jewish Supremacy*' by **David Duke**, a former leader of the **Ku-Klux-Klan** and Holocaust denier. During the interview, Majka presented an antisemitic conspiracy theory, according to which the result of the adoption of bills relating to restitution of property of victims of the Holocaust into US law is that "*Poles are to be pushed into the role of a third-class society, and the Jews are to be the top category of people in Poland. The second class, with some chance of a reasonable existence, are to be those who agree to cooperate with the Jewish people,*" (13:55). The host, Mr. **Rafał Mossakowski** interjected: '*Shabbas goys*' at this point, and Majka then continued his argument: "*We, Poles ... are to be a third-class community, and will have to work for a proverbial bowl of rice*" (14:33). He also added, "*Jewish supremacy, or hegemony over the Polish nation ...has become the basis for functioning in this country*" (20:24). Mossakowski's entire conversation with Majka on YouTube was titled, '*The Approaching Jewish Supremacy - meaning your life for a bowl of rice a day*'.

**GDYNIA.** On 2<sup>nd</sup> April during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Arka Gdynia** and Lechia Gdańsk, local hooligans displayed a banner displaying a *Totenkopf*, or Death's Head - a characteristic skull symbol used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German

concentration camps. Arka hooligans have used this banner for years.

**WARSAW.** On 2<sup>nd</sup> April, **Grzegorz Braun**, a film director and a far-right candidate in the European Parliament elections from the list of the **Confederation of KORWiN, Braun, Liroy, and Nationalists**, in an interview published on the **YouTube** channel of **wRealu24**, an online TV channel, demanded penalties for homosexuality. He said: *“Let’s negotiate not the boundaries of tolerance, but of penalization. ... If someone comes up with a bill about whipping, then we can discuss how to implement it,”*. When talking to **Paweł Jaworski**, Braun linked homosexuality to paedophilia: *“Perverts chasing boys ... They want to make molesting children legal,”*.

**WARSAW.** In early April, a taxi driver displayed xenophobic aggression towards a Ukrainian immigrant who worked for a competing transportation company by cutting in on him and shouting: *‘F...ck you, you Ukrainian b...ch’* before spitting on the victim. A passenger who had taken a ride with the Ukrainian driver, filmed the incident with his mobile phone.

**TORUŃ.** On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, in a programme broadcast on **Radio Maryja**, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz**, a journalist, stated that because of the American Justice for Uncompensated [Holocaust] Survivors Today Act (the so-called Act 447) the United States *“undertook to ensure that Poland, being a prime target for Jewish organisations in the Holocaust industry [sic], paid \$300 b by way of extortion both to the US, and to their treasured Israel,”*. Later in the broadcast he also said, *“Since Mossad can now rebuke all our officials, not just the television personnel, but also government people, then what will happen if all these claims are accepted by Poland, and thus the country end up under Jewish occupation?”*. This programme was also broadcast on **Telewizja Trwam**.

**WARSAW.** On 3<sup>rd</sup> April, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Legia Warszawa** and **Jagiellonia Białystok**, visiting hooligans displayed a characteristic red-and-white banner which resembled the logo of the **Blood and Honour** organisation, which in turn took its name from the motto of the *Hitlerjugend* (the Hitler Youth), on the terraces. Moreover, local hooligans shouted insults towards Jagiellonia player and Ukrainian national, Taras Romanczuk. They were chanting in support of **Dominik Furman**, a **Wisła Płock** player, who in the match against Jagiellonia on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2019 had attacked Romanczuk with racist slurs.

**ZIELONA GÓRA.** On 5<sup>th</sup> April, during an Ekstraliga speedway competition between **Stelmet Falubaz Zielona Góra** and Get Well Toruń, local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan, *‘The whole of Poland is chanting with us: perverts need to go away’* along with the crossed-out acronym, *‘LGBT’*.

**GDAŃSK.** On 6<sup>th</sup> April, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Lechia Gdańsk** and **Lech Poznań**, local hooligans yet again displayed racist banners on the terraces: one of them featured a symbol resembling a Celtic cross, whilst the second contained the slogan, *‘White Zaspas is not done yet’* (Zaspas is a district of Gdańsk). Moreover, hooligans of Poznań displayed a homophobic banner. It contained the slogan, *‘No to homo-propaganda’*, and the crossed-out acronym, *‘LGBT’*. Additionally, hooligans of **Arka Gdynia**, who are allies of Lech Poznań displayed a banner with a *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol- a characteristic skull used by the SS during World War Two.

**KONIN.** On 6<sup>th</sup> April, during a Third Division football match between **Górnik Konin** and Bałtyk Gdynia, local hooligans displayed a banner calling for ideological violence. It depicted an oft-used symbol of a man striking his victim on the ground.

**OŚWIĘCIM.** On 6<sup>th</sup> April, during a Fourth Division football match between **Unia Oświęcim** and Beskid Andrychów, local hooligans displayed a banner with a Celtic cross, a symbol of white power. Moreover, the nest-holder of the local team (the person who directs chants within the stadium) displayed a *Totenkopf*, or Death's Head symbol - a characteristic skull used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps. He put this skull on top of his megaphone.

**OTWOCK.** On 6<sup>th</sup> April, the police were informed of damage done to a plaque commemorating local Jews murdered by the Germans during World War Two. The plaque was located on Reymonta Street on the site of a mass grave in which approximately two thousand Jews were buried in August and September 1942. Unknown perpetrators painted two swastikas on a stone slab.

**WARSAW.** On 7<sup>th</sup> April, at a local primary school, the **Association of Fans of Legia Warszawa** held a sports tournament. During the matches, hooligans displayed a banner reading '*Hands off our children*' alongside the crossed-out acronym, '*LGBT*'. This was an aggressive and homophobic response to the declaration entitled *Warsaw Urban Policy for the LGBT+ Community* which was signed in February 2019 by the Mayor of Warsaw, Rafał Trzaskowski. This declaration aims to improve the lives of LGBT+ people living in Warsaw. Moreover, Legia hooligans displayed a banner expressing support for **Janusz Waluś**, who is serving a life sentence in South Africa for committing a racist murder. After those incidents, the local government issued the following statement: "*The Government of the Ochota district was sorry to hear about the incidents that accompanied the picnic, which was supposed to be a local sports event to bring together our local community. However, during the picnic many unacceptable messages were spread in the public which could be considered offensive and discriminatory.*".

**WARSAW.** On 8<sup>th</sup> April, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke**, a many-time candidate for the position of Poland's president, once again contested on **Twitter** that **Adolf Hitler** was responsible for the Holocaust. Korwin-Mikke made these comments during a planned visit to Poland by **David Irving**, a Holocaust-denying author and public speaker, who was sentenced to prison for such activities by an Austrian court in 2006. Korwin-Mikke tweeted: "*Jacek Czaputowicz [Poland's minister of foreign affairs – editor's note] does not want to let Mr. David Irving come to Poland, because 'His VIEWS ARE AGAINST POLISH LAW' (!!)* Let me remind you, that according to the law it is not up to me or Mr. Irving to prove that Hitler **HAD NOT** known about the Holocaust; one must prove that he had known about it!". Korwin-Mikke had already expressed public support for Irving's views in the past.

**WARSAW.** On 8<sup>th</sup> April, a kickboxer and mixed martial arts competitor, **Marcin 'Różal' Różalski**, in a conversation broadcast on the **Flesz News YouTube** channel made xenophobic comments, referring to the issue of the alleged intentions (of whom it is not known) to admit refugees to Poland. Różalski said: "*I was traveling through Warsaw just now. The weather was beautiful, people sitting around, having picnics, children playing, and they want to bring invaders here (sic!) who will f-ing ruin it all? Who will shit and piss around us? Wait and see what f-ing picnics they will organise! And they want us to help them, to say 'refugees welcome!'*". This type of accusation is a constant element of Islamophobic hate speech, used in public debate more often since mid-2015, when the humanitarian crisis intensified, and large numbers of war refugees were being admitted to European, North African, and Middle Eastern countries. Later in the same interview, when asked about the LGBT community declaration signed by the Mayor of Warsaw, Rafał Trzaskowski, Różalski replied as follows: "*In my opinion, this amounts to early preparation of children to be ready to sit down on the prick of a paedophile priest, because a child will have been stimulated sexually. ... later he will grab the prick of some old homo, who will say that this child*

came and caught hold all by himself, after all LGBT! Let's be equal! This is sick". The insulting comments made by Różalski were approved by the interviewer, **Grzegorz Czepułkowski**.

**WARSAW.** On 9<sup>th</sup> April, on Krakowskie Przedmieście street, on a number 116 bus, a passenger attacked Artem Manuilov, a Ukrainian-born film and theatre actor. The Ukrainian man reported, *"Whilst on the bus, I chatted briefly on the phone with my wife. I spoke in Ukrainian. When I had finished, I was hit in the face. A man hit me with a bag. He did it so hard that I had tears in my eyes. He started pushing and insulting me: 'Screw you!', 'Get the f...ck out of here!' – that's what he shouted at me,"*. The attacker later turned out to be a former academic teacher of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw.

**BIAŁA PODLASKA.** On 10<sup>th</sup> April, on Narutowicza street close to the Church of St. Anthony, during an official commemoration of the Smoleńsk air disaster, **Grzegorz Bierecki**, who won a seat in the Polish Senate, running on the list of the **Law and Justice party (PiS)**, made a speech containing the following words: *"We will not stop until Poland is cleansed from people who do not deserve to belong to our national community,"*. Krzysztof Burnetko, a journalist from *Polityka*, a national news publication wrote: *"Such words and comparisons bring unequivocal associations with rhetoric used in the Third Reich,"* whilst Bogusław Chrabota, the editor-in-chief of *Rzeczpospolita*, another national news publication, stated: *"This rhetoric stems from racist conceptions. We know such 'cleansers' from the history of authoritarian and totalitarian systems. It is, however, proof of how primitive the author of such words is. He has gone too far"*.



**CZĘSTOCHOWA.** On 10<sup>th</sup> April, during the semi-finals of the Polish football Cup between Raków Częstochowa and **Lechia Gdańsk**, visiting hooligans displayed a Third Reich flag with a Celtic cross in the middle. Some had scarves with the Celtic cross, too. They were joined by hooligans of **Śląsk Wrocław**, who also displayed scarves with the Celtic cross and the slogan, 'White Jawor'.

**WROCLAW.** On 10<sup>th</sup> April, a journalist of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, Jacek Harłukowicz, posted images on social media, which displayed racist slogans and symbols painted on a fence surrounding allotments in the city. The slogan read, 'Be proud- you are white' and the sign of a Celtic cross, which is a symbol of white supremacy. The slogans had been painted by supporters of the **Autonomous Nationalists** organisation.

**BOGOTA (COLOMBIA).** On 11<sup>th</sup> April, tennis player, Magda Linette, after losing a match to Astra Sharma in the second round of the WTA tournament, received a barrage of hateful comments and threats from Polish social media users. Amongst them were entries with racist content: 'You will be raped by three niggers', as well as others, contemptuously equating her attitude in the match to intellectual disability: 'How can you be so retarded?' In a media statement, Linette said, *"I get such messages after almost every lost match, and even sometimes after victories. At times there are threats towards my family: these annoy me the most. ... Most of the messages come from abroad,"*.

**WARSAW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> April, the TV station, **wPolsce.pl** presented a talk with **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** on foreign migrant workers employed in Poland's transportation industry. Korwin-Mikke said, *"If they serve us, then I feel like a master; let these nig...s serve me, very well, I am glad,"*.

**WARSAW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> April, the "NEVER AGAIN" Association was informed of racist inscriptions and symbols painted on the fence of a property on Torfowa Street, as well as on the corner of Torfowa and Wydmowa Streets in Stara Miłośna. The fences had the slogan, 'White Power', the

sign of the Celtic cross, as well as an extremely nationalist symbol representing the so-called phalanx, which is an image of a hand with a sword. The symbol was been used in the interwar period by Polish fascist organisations, including **the Falanga National Radical Camp of Bolesław Piasecki**.

**GNIEZNO.** On 13<sup>th</sup> April, fans of the football clubs, **Lech Poznań** and **Mieszko Gniezno** (of the Polish Third Division, Group II), as well as supporters of the **All-Polish Youth (MW)** disrupted the Equality Parade organised in support of the rights of people belonging to sexual minorities. Counter-protesters attempted to block the participants of the march and prevent them from reaching the Market Square. They threw bottles and eggs at the counter-protestors, and shouted offensive chants. They also displayed banners with the slogans, ‘*Out with the pedals [a derogatory term used in Polish to describe gay men],*’ and ‘*Stop homo-propaganda*’ along with pornographic images. In addition, representatives of the extreme right insulted Mr. Piotr Żytnicki, a journalist from *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a national newspaper, and author of many publications on the subject of football hooligans in Poland. They chanted: ‘*Żytnicki is a w...er!*’ in the city centre.

**WARSAW.** On 13<sup>th</sup> April, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Legia Warszawa** and **Pogoń Szczecin**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with support for **Janusz Waluś**, who migrated to South Africa, and in 1993 murdered Chris Hani, a local politician and social anti-apartheid activist. The flag depicted his name, image, and the words, ‘*Only he had the courage to pull the trigger*’. Furthermore, Legia hooligans displayed a **U.S. Confederate** flag, is nowadays considered to be a symbol of slavery.

**PROSZOWICE.** On 14<sup>th</sup> April, during a local football match between **Proszowianka Proszowice** and **Pogoń Miechów**, local hooligans displayed a banner on the terraces with the crossed-out acronym, ‘*LGBT*’.

**TORUŃ.** On 14<sup>th</sup> April, during the programme, *Rozmowy niedokończone* (‘*Unfinished Conversations*’) broadcast on **Radio Maryja** and on *Telewizja Trwam*, **Jan Dziejczak**, former Secretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made an inaccurate statement regarding the international scientific conference, *The new Polish school of historical research on the Holocaust*. The conference took place on 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 in Paris with the participation of Polish and French historians, the panelists’ speeches were disturbed by activists from the weekly newspaper, **Gazeta Polska**. The French Minister of Science and Higher Education, Frederique Vidal, called on the Polish authorities to condemn these incidents. According to Dziejczak, during the Paris conference “*Many lies had been told, including the one that the Poles killed more Jews than the Germans,*” Yet, no such thesis was presented by any of the scientists involved. During the broadcast, one listener called in to say that “*the Communist apparatus in Poland consisted mainly of Jews*”. There was no reaction to this untrue statement from the presenter, Fr. **Witold Hetnar**.

**STRASBOURG (FRANCE).** On 16<sup>th</sup> April, on the TV station, **Telewizja Republika**, during an interview by Aleksander Wierzejski, a Polish MEP, **Ryszard Czarnecki** of the **Law and Justice (PiS)** party made a number of xenophobic remarks. Answering the question whether he possessed information on the possible causes of the recent fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral, which had happened a day before, Czarnecki said: “*...The French say it tacitly or even openly, but in private conversations, that Muslims could be behind it, as it is for them a kind of conquest of Europe, but you won’t hear it from media, at least not from the mainstream media,*”.

**TORUŃ.** On 17<sup>th</sup> April, a well-known commentator of Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk’s** media outlets, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz**, made, once again, antisemitic remarks, this time during a broadcast on

**Radio Maryja.** He said, “*It’s clear that chaos in Poland would make it much easier for Jewish occupation of our country to take place – and this possibility is like the sword of Damocles for us due to the American JUST Act no. 447[editor’s note - Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today (JUST) Act of 2017; S. 447; Public Law 115–171]*” (). The talk was also broadcast by the **Telewizja Trwam** TV channel.

**WARSAW.** On 17<sup>th</sup> April, **Mariusz Gudebski**, an author specialising in Polish football, published the following comment on **Twitter**: “*First, we need to remove blacks and ciapatych [an ethnic slur for dark-skinned people – translator’s note], and then Europe will be better off. And this should begin in France,*”. He deleted this racist and xenophobic post a few hours later, and published a statement with similar content. The new post contained false accusations towards Muslims, who allegedly demonstrated their satisfaction with the Notre Dame fire that had taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Gudebski wrote, “*Seeing dark-skinned people happy during the burning of the cathedral, only stirred my negative feelings,*”.

**WARSAW.** On 17<sup>th</sup> April, during an episode of a television programme titled **W Tyle Wizji** (‘*Behind TV*’), co-hosts, **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** and **Stanisław Janeki** yet again smeared Prof. Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of the “NEVER AGAIN” Association, calling him ironically ‘*our darling*’. They then attempted to downplay the issue of neo-fascism, and laughed at anti-fascist statements made by Member of Parliament, and former director of the Polish Theatre in Wrocław, Krzysztof Mieszkowski. They suggested ‘*electro-shocks*’ as a cure for Mieszkowski’s ‘*delusions*’.

**PRUCHNIK.** On 19<sup>th</sup> April - Good Friday - residents of a town in Jarosław county took part in a ritual known as the hanging of Judas. The ritual has an antisemitic context. On a post located on Jana Pawła II street, the participants hung a large effigy made of straw with sidelocks resembling a stereotypical ‘Jewish’ character. It included an inscription reading ‘.’. A man dragged the effigy to a square in front of a church, where the ‘*trial of Judas*’ took place. The residents ‘sentenced Judas’ to thirty lashes – corresponding to the thirty pieces of silver, which according to the Gospel, Judas received for betraying Jesus. Both adult men, and children who were encouraged by the adults, whipped the effigy. After the thirtieth hit, a member of the crowd shouted, “*And five more for these restitutions*” - the alleged Jewish claims against Poland for possessions lost during World War Two. The effigy was subsequently dragged around the town, hit with sticks, and kicked, mostly by children. At a bridge over the Mleczka River, a few men cut ‘Judas’s’ head, ripped the remainder of the effigy apart, and set it alight. The effigy then was thrown into the river. The event in Pruchnik, in which **Mariusz Trojak**, deputy Mayor of Jarosław and a member of the **Law and Justice (PiS)** party participated, was widely criticised, both in Poland and internationally. The World Jewish Congress, amongst others, condemned the incident, expressing outrage with ‘*openly antisemitic demonstrations.*’ In addition, the Council for Religious Dialogue in Poland issued a statement at the Episcopal Conference of Poland which read: “*The Church expresses its unequivocal disapproval for practices that harm human dignity,*”. The Mayor of Pruchnik, **Wacław Szkoła**, disclosed online that the town authorities had not contributed to the organisation of the so-called Judas trial. However, he added this peculiar comment within the same statement: “*Nowadays, when some people try to blame Poles for crimes committed by the occupying forces during World War Two, such acts might be exploited by enemies of our Homeland as evidence of alleged the antisemitism of Poles,*”. The Pruchnik event was denounced by the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration, Joachim Brudziński, who wrote that under the Nazi occupation, the Polish Catholic Church “*saved the lives of its Jewish brothers. The ’demonstrations’ such as the one in Pruchnik, which went ahead against the wishes of the local priest, overshadow the beautiful deeds of the Ulma family, [the Ulma family helped Jews in hiding, for which they were shot in 1944 – translator’s note]*’. Brudziński’s statement was commented on by **Marek Jakubiak**, a Member of Parliament from the **Kukiz’15**

group: *“You can speak for yourself in calling them brothers. No Jew will call you brother, so why do you do this?”*. A similarly outrageous comment on Brudziński’s words was published on **Twitter** by **Adrian Klarenbach**, a journalist of the television channel, **TVP Info**: *“I don’t know about West Pomeranian tradition, but, Mr. Brudziński, leave the Podkarpacie tradition alone,”*. A Kukiz’15 Member of Parliament and the chairman of **Unia Polityki Realnej** (*‘the Union of Realpolitik’*) party, **Bartosz Jóźwiak**, posted the following statement: *“Next year I will whip the Judas-traitor effigy myself along with my daughters. And what will you do to me?”*. Many other comments had antisemitic tones. Marek Jakubiak posted on Twitter, *“In the midst of this storm of the bossy attitude of the Jews in Poland, we realise an old truth: ‘When the cat’s away, the mice will play’,”*. And in an interview for **Polskie Radio 24** he said: *“What significance for Polish-Jewish relations has the fact that Judas got a whipping for betraying Jesus? ... We must defend the Polish narrative. Folk customs have always existed, and they always will exist,”*. On **Radio 3**, a presenter and editor-in-chief of the **Do Rzeczy** weekly magazine, **Paweł Lisiecki**, said of the events in Pruchnik: *“It’s just a custom,”*, and he asked his interviewee, a **Law and Justice** (PiS) senator, **Jan Żaryn**, for a comment about Dawid Warszawski’s article condemning the antisemitic demonstration. Żaryn responded, *“I kindly ask Mr. Dawid Warszawski not to interfere with affairs that are not his. When he becomes a Catholic, he will understand, and, of course, we invite him to our Church,”*. And on Twitter, Żaryn wrote, *“I am surprised that the Jewish side can spot Pruchnik on the globe with a magnifying glass; a completely marginal incident, but they make it a world-wide affair harming Poland’s image. It’s absurd that we have to respond to this,”*. On 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, a Member of Parliament, **Robert Winnicki** of the **National Movement** (*‘Ruch Narodowy’*) and the parliamentary group, **the Confederation** (*‘Konfederacja’*), made an inquiry to the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, demanding: *‘the placing of the tradition of burning and drowning the Judas on the UNESCO World Heritage List’*. On 14<sup>th</sup> May, the regional prosecutor in Przemyśl refused to launch an investigation concerning the incitement of national and religious hatred during the Pruchnik event. The deputy prosecutor in Przemyśl, **Beata Starzecka**, stated, *“The event condemned only Judas’s behaviour detailed in the Bible, when for ‘thirty pieces of silver’ he betrayed his Master. The performance of 19<sup>th</sup> April was merely a religion-based folk custom, not a nationality-based one,”*.

**WARSAW**. On 19<sup>th</sup> April, the U.S. ambassador to Poland, Georgette Mosbacher, published her Pesach greetings on Twitter. This was met with aggressive and antisemitic reactions by a number of people. Some of their comments included: *‘This is Poland, not Polin,’*; *‘She should have been expelled from Poland long ago,’*; *‘Go back to USrael!’*; *‘Get OUT of Poland!!!’*; *‘Happy are those who got rid of them [Jews – editor’s note]’*; and *‘if you are only critical of those Jewish money-grabbers, then you’ll be dubbed the most evil in the world ... The world is Jew-sick and this infection must be cured soon...’*. Similar comments were posted by a Member of Parliament, Prof. **Krystyna Pawłowicz** of the **Law and Justice** (PiS) party. She wrote *‘This must be a FAKE account. Somebody wants to PROVOKE us these days and prove that US military bases should not be built in Poland,’*. **Robert Bąkiewicz** of the **Independence March Association** wrote *“And I wish the Madam Ambassador to convert to the Holy Catholic Faith. Christ died and was resurrected also for you, for pagans and for perfidious Jews!”*. Anti-abortion activist, **Kaja Godek** wrote, *“Madam, you are not on a diplomatic post in Israel...”*, and **Tomasz Idaszek** of the **Kukiz’15** political movement wrote, *“...provocative and simply arrogant ‘greetings’. This is still Poland, and not Polin”*. [Where possible, spelling has been presented to reflect the original – translator’s note.]

**CHEŁM**. On 20<sup>th</sup> April, during a Third Division football match between **Chelmianka Chelm** and Podlasie Biała Podlaska, local hooligans displayed a banner expressing support for **Janusz Waluś**, who migrated to South Africa, and in 1993 murdered Chris Hani, a local politician and social anti-

apartheid activist. Moreover, activists of the local extreme right group, *Młodzi Patrioci Chełm* (Young Patriots of Chełm) distributed leaflets containing homophobic content. Members of the LGBT community were denounced as ‘deviants’ and ‘degenerates’, and their non-heteronormative orientation ‘deviancy’. Additionally, the leaflets contained messages such as: ‘Sodomites are four times more likely to commit a sex-related murder’, or ‘The disease of homosexuality is one of the many examples of the evil which is promoted nowadays,’.

**GDAŃSK.** On 20<sup>th</sup> April, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Lechia Gdańsk** and Piast Gliwice, a number of racist incidents took place. Whenever a black player of Piast, Joel Valencia from Ecuador touched the ball, hooligans of Lechia engaged in monkey chants. In response, the referee implemented a special protocol: he prevented the game from being resumed and told the stadium announcer to read an announcement that if the racist chanting continued, the match would be stopped and then abandoned. The Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined Lechia Gdańsk PLN 10,000 (approximately €2,200).

**OŚWIĘCIM.** Most likely on 21<sup>st</sup> April, during the Easter holidays, the word ‘Jude’ hung on a set of gallows was painted on a wall near the intersection of Dąbrowskiego and Wysokie Brzegi streets.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On 24<sup>th</sup> April, a **Facebook** profile run by hooligans of the club, **Lech Poznań** published an antisemitic post. It included a comment about the result of the match held on that day between Widzew Łódź and Radomiak Radom: *A draw for the last nine matches, the kikes will soon have the record,*’ with the word, ‘kikes’ referring to Widzew Łódź). This post was accompanied by a picture of a mural painted by hooligans of **ŁKS Łódź**, a local rival of Widzew, with the words, ‘Death to the Jewish whore’ and depicting people wearing the Star of David hanged on gallows.

**WROCLAW.** On 24<sup>th</sup> April, in front of the Sabotaż pub on Kurkowa street, three masked men attacked dr. Joanna Malinowska, a feminist activist and academic from Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. After she had left the pub, the attackers shouted at her, ‘*Leftist wh...e from Poznań*’ The woman reported, “*They were insulting me and were walking towards me with their hands in their pockets, obviously having some tools hidden there,*”. Malinowska managed to escape back to the pub, and she later returned home. Speaking to the media, she said, “*Some time ago, nationalists published my photos on Facebook pages such as ‘Anti-feminist’ or ‘Hammer against Marxism’, encouraging attacks on me,*” The very same evening, around midnight, a masked man rushed into the Sabotaż pub and used pepper spray. He also shouted, “*We will f...ing kill you, you leftist wh...es!*”.

**WROCLAW.** On 27<sup>th</sup> April, a taxi driver attempted to hit and kill a cyclist, a Ukrainian citizen, with whom he had collided a few minutes prior at an intersection near Skowroni Park. Following the collision, the taxi driver followed in pursuit of the cyclist. In a media statement, the Ukrainian citizen reported: “*I entered an alley in the park, and this man followed me. He hit me several times until I fell over. And then he began to drive over me. I screamed for him to stop. And he called me names. ... they were curses and insults. He shouted ‘f...ck’ and ‘another Ukrainian again’.* Then he drove his car across my chest,”. The victim was in a serious condition, and was hospitalised. He had a crushed chest with a collapsed lung, as well as broken ribs. The police detained **Artur Ch.**, thirty-seven years old, and charged him with attempting to kill the Ukrainian citizen. “*He is accused of deliberately hitting the victim and driving the front axle of a vehicle over his body,*” said Justyna Pilarczyk, a spokeswoman for the District Prosecutor’s Office. The man was placed on remand for three months.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On 30<sup>th</sup> April, in front of the regional police headquarters on Lutomińska street, far-right activist, **Sławomir Dul** partook in an antisemitic demonstration. The man displayed a set of wooden gallows with an effigy hung on them with an inscription reading ‘*Jew Jakub Berman*’. During Stalinism, Berman was one of the leaders of the ruling Polish United Workers’ Party. Dul shouted: “*I will tell you about our Polish-Jewish, Polish-Communist-Jewish, Polish-Zionist-Jewish history. I will tell you about it. But first, we must hang this Jew. Let him hang!*”. Speaking through a microphone, as he had brought his own sound equipment with him, the man also said “*I wanted to organise a demonstration in Warsaw, from the Ukrainian Embassy to the Embassy of Israel. I also wanted to protest against Ukrainian and Jewish invaders,*”. He then shouted “*And I hung a Jew in Poland!*”. Police officers present in the vicinity neglected to intervene.

**ŁÓDŹ.** At the end of April, in Szare Szeregi Park, a swastika was painted by unknown perpetrators on the Children’s Martyrdom monument. The monument commemorates the tragic fate of children during the Second World War, specifically those imprisoned and murdered in the Nazi prevention (isolation) camp for Polish children, which was located on Przemysłowa street.

## **MAY 2019**

**GLIWICE.** On 1<sup>st</sup> May, during an A-class (the seventh tier in the Polish league system) match between **ŁTS Łabęda** and Concordia Knurów, local hooligans displayed a banner on the terraces with a symbol stylised to resemble a Celtic cross - a racist symbol.

**TORUŃ.** On 1<sup>st</sup> May, during a live programme on **Radio Maryja** hosted by Fr. **Witold Hetnar**, one listener who had called in to the studio made the following statement: “*As long as you have been called an anti-Semite, you are a patriot. When they stop calling you an anti-Semite, you lose patriotism. That’s how you recognise a patriot. Every patriot is spat on and called an anti-Semite,*”. The host of the programme, Mr Hetnar did not express any disapproval of these words. His reply was: “*Well, maybe not just by this, perhaps there are other ways of recognising them too,*”.

**PIOTRKÓW TRYBUNALSKI.** The May issue of the monthly football hooligan fanzine, **To My Kibice** (*‘It’s Us Fans’*), which supports various causes of the extreme right, ran a story about hooligans in Piotrków Trybunalski, with an image of an antisemitic mural painted in that town. It contained the slogan, ‘*Anty Żydzew*’ -an insult towards rivals, Widzew Łódź - signed by hooligans of **ŁKS Łódź**. Moreover, the same article contained an image of a **Widzew** hooligan donning an antisemitic T-shirt, which depicted the slogan, ‘*In this town there are many Jews, it takes courage to be one of us*’. The word, ‘*Jew*’ was written in the colours of ŁKS, whilst the word, ‘*us*’ was written in the colours of Widzew.

**BELCHATÓW.** The May issue of the monthly football hooligan fanzine, **To My Kibice** (*‘It’s Us Fans’*), which expresses support for various causes of extreme right, ran a story about the hooligans of **Lechia Gdańsk**, with images of scarves displayed by them during matches. One of them contained a paraphrased **SS** motto: ‘*Our honour is fidelity*’. The same group of hooligans also used a banner with the slogan, ‘*Here the hearts are green and the skin is white*’. An image of this flag was also presented in *It’s Us Fans*.

**WARSAW.** On 2<sup>nd</sup> May, during the final of the Polish football Cup between Jagiellonia Białystok and **Lechia Gdańsk**, hooligans of the latter team yet again displayed a racist banner. It contained a symbol stylised to resemble a Celtic cross. The banner was highly visible in the central location of the stand, in the so-called nest.

**PŁOCK.** On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, during an Ekstraklasa football match between Wisła Płock and **Arka Gdynia**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with a *Totenkopf*, or Death's Head symbol - a characteristic skull used by the SS during World War Two.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On 4<sup>th</sup> May, during a *Second Division* football match between **Widzew Łódź** and **Ruch Chorzów**, hooligans of both clubs displayed a banner with Nazi symbols. It depicted the so-called *Totenkopf*, or Death's Head symbol- a characteristic skull used by SS-**Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps. Another of the symbols was the Celtic cross, a racist symbol of white power.



**WARSAW.** On 4<sup>th</sup> May, during an Ekstraklasa football match between Legia Warszawa and **Piast Gliwice**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against '*ideological enemies*'. The banner depicted a symbol of a man hitting his victim on the ground, which is often used by neo-fascists.

**TYCHY.** On 5<sup>th</sup> May, MEP, Marek Plura revealed a xenophobic act of hostility committed against his friend, Ali Nurbagandow, who comes from Kazakhstan. On a wall near a place where he often stayed (no other details have been made public), inscriptions appeared reading '*Arab*' and '*Kacap*' - a derogatory term used to describe Russians - together with an arrow indicating the man's location. Ali Nurbagandow is a Tychy resident, and works as a sports physiotherapist. He was nominated by *Dziennik Zachodni*, a local news organisation for the 2018 Personality of the Year Award for '*the free treatment of sixty Tychy breast cancer survivors, as well as for free self-defence classes for children, and judo for disabled people and children from poor families*'.

**WARSAW.** On 6<sup>th</sup> May, Milo Mazurkiewicz, a volunteer from the Poznań Stonewall Group, a group supporting the LGBT community, committed suicide. She had described herself as a non-binary transgender person, and for several months she had been undergoing the process of having her gender defined medically, which in Poland is associated with a legal correction process. Four days before her death, she posted a description on Facebook of the humiliating practices and situations that she had been subjected to and she commented, "*I'm fed up. I'm sick of being treated like sh...t. I'm sick of people (psychologists, doctors, therapists) telling me that I can't be who I am because my looks don't fit. Treating me as if I had imagined it all and needed documents to prove it. They attach more importance to how I look than to how I feel. ... Saying that maybe I should stop being (trying to be) myself and wait for the doctors and therapists to decide that I can,*". Milo Mazurkiewicz had previously written online: "*Doctors, diagnosticians, therapists. I am afraid of them. I would like at least one of them not to consider me mentally ill just because I am transgender. I am sorry that I do not match the criteria described in the textbooks,*". In March 2019, she commented on the multitude of studies and tests that concerned the gender correction process: "*I'm not some f...cking anomaly of nature. Why can't they treat me like a human being? I want to cry but I have no tears left,*". After the death of Milo Mazurkiewicz, her friends commented in the media on her diagnosis, Tash Tosia Lisiecki, who attended meetings of the trans youth support group at Stonewall Group said, "*With each subsequent doctor or therapist questioning her identity and refusing her treatment, Milo became more and more depressed. Most often, she got worse immediately after visiting a doctor or psychologist,*". Another friend, identified only as Neev said, "*She wrote almost every day how bad she felt, how much she didn't want to take another test for being a transgender person, how overwhelming it all was*". Milo Mazurkiewicz jumped from the Łazienkowski Bridge into the Vistula river. Her body was found in mid-May. In February 2019, she had tried to commit suicide twice. On 24<sup>th</sup> May, a group of Warsaw LGBT activists attempted to

hang a rainbow flag, which acts as a symbol of sexual minorities on the bridge to commemorate their friend. This event was interrupted by several aggressive men who attempted to destroy the banner which was consequently damaged. The attackers shouted ‘*Pedals*’ - an abusive Polish term used to insult gay people, and one of them assaulted the photographer, Jakub Szafranski from *Krytyka Polityczna*, a left-wing journal.

**OLSZTYN.** On 7<sup>th</sup> May, on **Radio Olsztyn**, during a debate of the MEP candidates for the European Parliament from the region of Warmia and Mazury, **Andrzej Wyrębek** from **the Confederation of KORWiN, Braun, Liroy, and Nationalists** (*‘Konfederacja’*) presented the policy of his group as follows: *“We are against abortion, euthanasia, and promoting perversion [in this way he referred to people belonging to sexual minorities – editor’s note],”* Wyrębek also made a contemptuous comment on the social policy pursued in the European Union: *“It boils down to the fact that they implement the nasty so called social and human rights in Poland. What is the name for it? Human rights, something like that?”* The host of the programme, **Wojciech Chromy**, did not react to these offensive statements.

**WARSAW.** On 7<sup>th</sup> May, **Paweł Kukiz**, a member of the **Kukiz’15** movement, posted a homophobic message on **Facebook**. It was in response to the words of Robert Biedroń, a former Member of Parliament and leader of the Spring (*‘Wiosna’*) party, who had announced that his group would strive to remove an article from the Code of Criminal Law which refers to insulting religious sentiment. Kukiz posted the following entry: *“You and your manwife try to gain political capital, Mr. Biedroń – out of screaming paedophiles, aggressive atheism, and neo-Bolshevik liberalism ...You raise political capital using fascist methods to impose your aesthetic values on others, taken straight from Rome just before its fall,”*. Kukiz also added, *“For all I care, you may walk around with ping-pong balls in your mouth and a studded collar together with a herd of mates the same as you,”*.

**BIELSKO-BIAŁA.** On 11<sup>th</sup> May, during a First Division match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biała** and Odra Opole, local hooligans displayed a banner which called for violence against *‘ideological enemies’*. It depicted a symbol of a man hitting his victim on the ground, often used by neo-fascists.

**WARSAW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> May, an extreme nationalist march was organised by the **Independence March Association** and the **National Radical Camp (ONR)** on the streets of the capital. It was also attended by representatives of the **Right Wing of the Republic of Poland, All-Polish Youth (MW)** and **Agrounia** with its leader, **Michał Kołodziejczak**. **Robert Bąkiewicz** from the March of Independence group spoke to the participants of the assembly, and his comments took the form of threats: *“The government says, for example, that it does not allow immigrants, and yet half of the city already comes from various foreign countries - from Ukraine to Bangladesh and Africa. But if the government does not pass any laws protecting us against Jewish claims, we will take matters into our own hands!”*. **Leszek Żebrowski**, a journalist associated with **Radio Maryja** and the magazine, **Nasz Dziennik**, stated that accepting alleged claims relating to heirless assets amounts to *‘Talmudisation of the law’*. The Member of Parliament, **Tomasz Rzymkowski**, a member of the **Kukiz’15** movement, stated that he had prepared a bill that would preclude all the claims, and would enable *‘a total ban on talks with the Holocaust industry’* **Grzegorz Braun**, a film director and candidate in the Presidential elections in 2015, said, *“It’s not about money: it’s about a hostile takeover of Polish statehood. This is a tool to train us, just like all the previous lies that have not yet ceased. It is about a hostile takeover of the Polish state. Please, don’t delude yourselves that the Jews will leave us in peace!”*. During the march, the route of which led from the Chancellery of the Prime Minister to the US Embassy, its participants chanted *‘Down with Jewish occupation’*, *‘This is*

*Poland, not Polin*’, and *‘Death to the enemies of our homeland’*. They also carried banners with the inscriptions, *‘Jews are the cause of antisemitism’*, *‘The Hyenas of the Holocaust’*, *‘Stop Jewish occupation’*, and *‘End the robbing of Poland by the Holocaust industry bankers from New York’*, as well as the U.S. Confederate flag. The flag was used in the 19th century during the American Civil War, and is considered today to be a symbol of slavery and racial discrimination. Some demonstrators wore t-shirts with the slogan, *‘I don’t apologize for Jedwabne’*, and a crossed-out Star of David. They also displayed symbols that are variants of the swastika, racist Celtic cross signs, and symbols known as *Totenkopf*, or the Death’s Head symbol, which was used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände** branch members, who worked as guards in German concentration camps. During the demonstration, antisemitic publications were sold, including *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which promotes conspiracy theories about Jews seeking power over the whole world. Despite these incidents and public announcements from the capital’s mayor, Rafał Trzaskowski, that if such content appeared during the march, *‘appropriate steps would be taken’* - the Warsaw authorities declined to dissolve the assembly.

**WARSAW.** On 12<sup>th</sup> May, a poster placed on the door of the Wola Culture Centre on Działkowska Street was covered with graffiti displaying the inscription, *‘Jude Raus’* (*‘Jews out’*) and a star of David hanging on a set of gallows. The slogan, *‘Memory binds us together’* displayed on the poster was painted over.

**WROCLAW.** On 12<sup>th</sup> May, on the walls of the vegan brewery, Sabotaż located on Kurkowa Street, Celtic crosses were painted. The Celtic cross is a symbol used by racist movements. Four days later, unknown perpetrators smashed the windows of the property with stones. The next attack occurred on the night of 18<sup>th</sup> May: from a passing car a firecracker was thrown and tear gas sprayed towards a group of people standing in front of the brewery. According to one of the victims, organiser of cultural activities, Łukasz Olszewski, the reason for these acts of aggression was to do with the activities carried out in Sabotaż, namely cultural events in support of feminist movements, employment rights and animal rights. In a media statement, Olszewski said *“Repeated attacks are the result of incitement to aggression against us. The belief that ‘leftism’ should be suppressed is widespread in our society and accepted by most social groups. As long as there is quiet consent to such actions and no decisive reaction of the city authorities, we are at risk of a tragedy”*.

**TORUŃ.** On 15<sup>th</sup> May, during a broadcast on **Radio Maryja**, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz**, the main ideologist of the media empire belonging to Fr. **Tadeusz Rydzyk**, discussed a documentary by Tomasz Sekielski on the subject of paedophilia amongst priests entitled *‘Just Don’t Tell Anyone’*. He claimed the production of the documentary could be *‘explained’* by the following antisemitic conspiracy theory: *“To begin with, we need to sort out the Church so that under the ensuing threat of Jewish occupation the less valuable indigenous nation was deprived of even the hint of nobility and leadership.”*[sic] Later on in the broadcast, Michalkiewicz also insulted a former Member of Parliament and Mayor of Słupsk, Robert Biedroń, whom he called an *‘ostentatious sodomite’*.

**WARSAW.** On 15<sup>th</sup> May, a Member of Parliament, **Marek Jakubiak**, elected to the Polish parliament (*Sejm*) from the list of the **Kukiz’15** movement, in a programme titled *W cztery oczy* (*‘One-to-one’*) broadcast on **YouTube** on **wReal24**, an internet television channel, made antisemitic statements. He made comments about the allegedly negative attitude of Jews towards Poles with the following words: *“The thousands of holiday groups that come from Israel to visit the concentration camps are guided by Jewish guides who tell them so much nonsense about Poles, our innate anti-Semitism, and our hostility towards everything and everybody.”*. Analysing the reasons for this alleged resentment towards Poles, he said, *“In my mind it is always about money”*. Jakubiak also referred to the so-called *Act 447*, adopted in 2018 in the U.S.A, which is falsely presented by

supporters of the far right as an order for Poland to pay the alleged 'Jewish claims'. He said, "*If the situation today is that if we have heirless [property – editor's note] which should be returned, then we should now give the Jews a bill for six hundred years of living on the lands of Poland*". Further on he also added, "*Do we have to answer for all the harm caused to the Jews only because we gave them shelter? Because we turned out to be the people who tolerated them and lived with them? After all, it wasn't us who built ghettos for them in Poland - they built the ghettos themselves!*". The programme was presented by **Marcin Rola**, himself known for numerous antisemitic and xenophobic statements, who nodded approvingly at the statements of Mr. Jakubiak.

**KIELCE.** On 18<sup>th</sup> May, antisemitic incidents occurred during a debate between candidates for the European Parliament in the Korona Gallery on Warszawska Street. **Dawid Lewicki** from the **Confederation of KORWiN, Braun, Liroy, and Nationalists** ('*Konfederacja*') referred in a manipulative way during his speech to the American Justice for Uncompensated [Holocaust – editor's note] Survivors Today Act, the so-called 447 JUST Act, stating that the representatives of the current authorities "*kneel before the Jews and want to sell Poland for \$300 billion. The Confederation firmly says 'no' to any Jewish claims,*". Lewicki had brought with him a Kippah, traditional Jewish headwear which he tried to present to the Deputy Minister of Sport and Tourism, Anna Krupka from the Law and Justice party (*PiS*), who was present in the hall. When he put the Kippah on the table, Krupka threw it back at him. The debate continued, and when Krupka's turn came to speak from the stage, another Confederation candidate, **Konrad Berkowicz**, held the cap for a while over her head as a sign of contempt.

**KIELCE.** On 18<sup>th</sup> May, unknown perpetrators attacked three young volunteers who, as part of an election campaign to the European Parliament, distributed leaflets around the city encouraging voters to support Róża Thun, a candidate from the list of the European Coalition (*Koalicja Europejska*) and a member of the European Platform. One of the victims, Mateusz Sołtys, reported: "*I was walking together with friends, and someone just threw some faeces or sewage from a window or balcony. I kept calm, we left that place, we had a bottle of water and used it to wash. We have reported the matter to the police,*". In the evening of the same day, Róża Thun organized a press conference during which she informed journalists that on 17<sup>th</sup> May the volunteers supporting her had once again been met with hostile behaviour - this time from **Łukasz Szumilas**, a local councillor from Busko-Zdrój who represents the **Election Committee of Elżbieta Śliwa** supported by the United Right. According to a report provided by a colleague of Róża Thun, Szumilas "*approached the volunteer, put his hand on his back, and suggested that he should not hand out leaflets, that this was not a place for him,*". He also said that "*it would be better for him to clear off,*". The next day, 18<sup>th</sup> May, Szumilas stabbed a policeman. The incident occurred in Busko-Zdrój during an incident with officers in one of the stores in the city centre. During the conference in Kielce, Róża Thun informed attendees about a series of xenophobic slanders and death threats, which had been addressed towards her: "*I will report them to the police and the prosecutor's office - the perpetrators remain so far unpunished,*" She also added, "*Recently, my electoral materials have been notoriously destroyed, ripped off, marked with swastikas, moustaches of an obvious character, and offensive inscriptions. I thought that hate, hate speech, and incitement to violence concerned just me, but unfortunately the volunteers who were helping me in the campaign have also been affected,*".

**SIEDLCE.** On 19<sup>th</sup> May, during a Second Division football match between **Pogoń Siedlce** and Ruch Chorzów, local hooligans displayed a racist banner on the terraces. The banner depicted a Celtic cross, partially covered.

**WARSAW.** On 21<sup>st</sup> May, four men attempted to attack Georgian citizens crossing the street at the intersection of Targowa and Białostocka Streets. The attackers shouted insults at the Georgians, and two of them sought physical confrontation. They moved towards one of the Georgians but, in response to their aggression, the man dealt them several blows and knocked them to the ground.

**TORUŃ.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, during a **Radio Maryja** broadcast featuring the government spokeswoman, **Joanna Kopcińska** of the **Law and Justice** party (*PiS*), and **Jan Dziedziczak**, a former senior official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a listener phoned in and made antisemitic remarks. Talking about his interactions with the Polish embassy in Berlin (he was a permanent resident of Germany), and the issue of voting in the upcoming European Parliamentary elections on 26<sup>th</sup> May, the listener said: *“You should replace these kikes in Berlin at last; let the Polish diaspora do something about it, not just phone calls in vain, one cannot reach them there, no chance of online registration. How shall I vote? Whom shall I vote for? The dirty Jews in Poland and Berlin?”*. Neither the host, Fr. **Witold Hetnar**, nor guest politicians present reacted to these remarks.

**WARSAW.** On 26<sup>th</sup> May, **Michał Kubiak**, captain of the Polish men’s volleyball team, was interviewed on the programme, *Prawda siatki* (‘The Truth of the Grid’), broadcast on **YouTube**, during which he made offensive comments about Iranians: *“They always play innocent, super, and cool. But my opinion is that they are awful, malicious, and extremely rude people. For me, they are a non-nation, even though they proudly call themselves Persians rather than Arabs. In fact, they are ordinary lousy guys. Sometimes we do have to play them, but for me they don’t exist,”*. The quote above was supposed to be a comment on the conflict situation that occurred in the final match of the Asian Club Championship held on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Kubiak played for the Japanese club, Panasonic Panthers in a match against the Matin Varamin club from Iran. Following the player’s statement, the Volleyball Federation of Iran lodged a complaint with the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB). On 4<sup>th</sup> June, the Disciplinary Department of the Polish Volleyball Federation (PZPS) imposed a penalty on Kubiak of suspension from Polish representation in volleyball for a period of six matches. Their memorandum stated that during the interview in question he had used *‘terms incompatible with decency and principles of social coexistence’*. This decision was upheld by the FIVB, which additionally recommended that the Polish Volleyball Federation demanded that Kubiak apologise in writing, and that the apology be read aloud via the loudspeakers during the match between Poland and Iran during the League of Nations week. On 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, before the match of the two teams started, the letter of apology was read, but contrary to the recommendation of the FIVB, its signatory was not Kubiak, but the president of PZPS, Jacek Kasprzyk.

**RZESZÓW.** On 28<sup>th</sup> May, during a press conference on the Market Square of a Member of the European Parliament, Elżbieta Łukacijewska, who represents the Civic Platform party (*Platforma Obywatelska*), two men shouted at her, *“Long live Adolf Hitler”*. They also raised their hands in the gesture of the Nazi, ‘*Sieg heil*’ salute.

**WARSAW.** On 30<sup>th</sup> May, in front of a hotel entrance on Towarowa Street, two men attacked a black student from the United States, a participant in a research trip organised by Teesside University in Middlesbrough, United Kingdom. One of the attackers punched the victim in the head, and the other tried to hit the victim’s stomach, but was obstructed by the victim’s female friend, who was present with a few others at the scene. Student supervisor, Prof. Matthew Feldman reported, *“I’m sure it was a racist attack, because the only target of the attackers was the darker skinned student of Palestinian origin. And yet we came here to see what fascism had led to in the past. It’s amazing how history has come full circle,”*. The police were called to the hotel. According to Marta Sulowska from the District Police Headquarters in Wola, the injured man *“was not interested in submitting a complaint and, despite the passage of time, none has been received in this case,”*.

However, prof. Feldman said in a media statement that the attacked student did go to the station, but the policeman would not accept his complaint. The U.S. Embassy was informed about the case.

## JUNE 2019

**BIAŁYSTOK.** On 1<sup>st</sup> June, representatives of the **National Radical Camp (ONR)** tried to disrupt a meeting of an LGBT self-help group for people belonging to sexual minorities. The meeting was taking place at the headquarters of one of the local organisations which campaigns for anti-discrimination education. ONR members behaved aggressively, and demanded to be allowed inside. The police were called to the scene and checked their identities.

**NYSA.** On 1<sup>st</sup> June, during a Fourth Division football match between Polonia Nysa and **Chemik Kędzierzyn-Koźle**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner on the terraces stating support for windsurfer, **Zofia Klepacka**, who in February had posted homophobic comments online.

**POZNAŃ.** On 1<sup>st</sup> June, on Jackowskiego Street, unknown perpetrators attacked the headquarters of the Stonewall Group, an organisation which is actively campaigns for the rights of people belonging to sexual minorities. As a result of this incident, the glass on the front door of the building was broken.

**WARSAW.** On 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Grzegorz Popielarz, former President of Polonia Warszawa F.C., tweeted about a racist incident which took place during a derby match against Legia Warszawa. An unidentified man repeatedly insulted a man of Indian origin and his teenage son, who were in the stadium to support Polonia. He yelled that “*they have to f... off because this is a white team,*”. The boy was invited by his friend from Polonia Juniors, where he had trained.

**KARMANOWICE.** On 6<sup>th</sup> June, the headmistress of a primary school in the town, Marzena Wartacz-Zadora, informed the local authorities that someone had painted offensive inscriptions and an **SS** symbol on a monument commemorating the Jews murdered during World War Two. Following the liquidation of the ghetto in Wąwolnica, Puławy County in the autumn of 1942, the Jews were probably shot by Germans, and their bodies were buried in the forest in Karmanowice.

**OPOLE.** On 6<sup>th</sup> June, during a football match hosted by hooligans of **Odra Opole** of the Polish First Division, its participants displayed a flag stylised to resemble the logo of **Blood and Honour**, an international neo-Nazi organisation, the name of which was a motto of **Hitlerjugend** (The Hitler Youth).

**WARSAW.** On 7<sup>th</sup> June, **Rafał Ziemkiewicz**, a journalist, published a column on the Interia website, making the following appeal: “... *I want to say strongly and clearly: you have to shoot LGBT! Not literally, of course - you have to fight them, you must know that they are not people of good will, but new Bolsheviks, new Nazis who want to destroy us in the name of their insane ideolo [sic],*”. Ziemkiewicz repeated the same phrase, ‘*you have to shoot the LGBT*’ in a **Twitter** post in which he invited people to read his Interia column. His article also contained expressions of support for **Zofia Klepacka**, the windsurfer who has been criticised in the media for making homophobic comments. A few hours following the publication, Interia removed Ziemkiewicz’s quote, and terminated their cooperation with him. The editor-in-chief of the website, Krzysztof Fijałek, issued a statement explaining the decision: “*We support and advocate freedom of speech, but not the use of our platform for inciting, even if in figurative speech, to violence,*”.

**WARSAW.** On the night of 7<sup>th</sup> June, three men pulled down and set fire to a rainbow flag, which is

a symbol of sexual minorities, displayed in front of the Paloma restaurant on the Vistula River. The aggressors shouted slogans about *'the end of pedaling'* [*'pedal'* is a slang, offensive Polish word for gay men – editor's note] Witnesses of the event tried to take the flag from them, and a struggle ensued.

**WARSAW.** On 8<sup>th</sup> June, on the beach near the National Stadium, an unidentified woman committed homophobic and xenophobic acts of aggression. She insulted a group of people with a rainbow LGBT flag, who were most likely participants of the Equality Parade - a demonstration for the rights of sexual minorities that had taken place on that day in the capital, and hit and spat on one woman. A few minutes later, she also attacked a Chilean resident of Warsaw, hitting her twice, as well as her friends. The victim reported: *"She turned towards us, shouting that as foreigners we have no right to stay in this country. She called me 'a foreigner' and 'a little whore'."* There was no reaction from any witnesses to the event.

**WARSAW.** On 10<sup>th</sup> June, during a qualifying match for the European Football Championship between the Polish and Israeli national teams, the following comment on the result of the match was published on the official **Facebook** page of the **Polish Football Association**: *"It's a pogrom! We are leading 4-0 against Israel!"*. The post also contained a graphic image of fire. In the Polish language, one of the basic meanings of the word, *'pogrom'* is *'collective anti-Jewish violence'*. In the context of a match against the Israeli team the comment posted by the Polish Football Association PZPN should be considered antisemitic. The comment was condemned, amongst others, by the magazine, *Polityka*, as well as by editors of foreign media. When asked to take a position on this matter, PZPN spokesman **Jakub Kwiatkowski** offered the following statement: *"If we took such an approach, we could not use the word 'spalony' [burned] either "* [in Polish football terminology *'spalony'* means *'off-side'*- editor's note]. Subsequently, on 11<sup>th</sup> June, an antisemitic article about the match against Israel was published by the disgraced former priest, **Jacek Międlar**. In text under the headline, *'Jewish dreams in flames'* published on the website, **wprawo.pl** he made the following statements: *"The Poles shot the Jewish kickers"; "Jews have once again proved that fighting is not their strong point. They are definitely better at collaborating and shooting Palestinian children,"*; and *"During a press conference [Jews] brought us to tears with memories of 'extermination' whilst their all-tribe holocaust mythomania and anti-Polishness campaign have gone so far that anything can now be expected from them,"*.

**SZYNKIELÓW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> June, the television channel, TVN presented a documentary on bullying which centred around an eleven-year-old schoolgirl with Asperger's syndrome. The bullying took place in a local elementary school in the Wieluń district. The schoolmaster, **Włodzimierz P.** and one of the teachers, who was also his wife, were said to have humiliated, ridiculed, insulted, and threatened the child. The schoolgirl wrote a letter to the Children's Rights Ombudsman, writing: *"I've been put down by my teacher in front of the class. They call me names and threaten me with a police officer, priest, special school, prison and a room without door handles. One day, the headmaster and his wife took me to the staff room and locked the door. The schoolmaster took his belt off and started pounding a chair with it. He told me to lie down, and when I objected, he started tugging me and forcing me to lie down. He called me the worst kind of names, and his wife was laughing. I have a ban on getting close to other children, and teachers spread lies about me. Because of all this, I am scared of school,"*. When the girl's mother learned about the schoolmaster's actions, she placed a voice recorder in her daughter's schoolbag. They used the device for more than a month, recording acts of harassment, including humiliation by the schoolmaster and his wife. Włodzimierz P. was recorded telling the girl, *"I am talking to you, and you put a pen in your mouth. A normal person would put it aside right away. You are not a baby to be given a chew toy. You are thinking about sex, and you are biting it like some rubber duck. Are*

*you hungry? Then go and eat it in the other room!*". The 'chew toy' that the schoolmaster forbade the girl to use, was a special pen overlay designed for autistic children for therapeutic purposes. The girl would bite it whenever she got nervous. The schoolgirl's grandmother also voiced her opinion about the situation at the school in Szynkielów. She told the media what she'd heard from the schoolmaster about her granddaughter: *"He told me a few times that had she been his child, he would have beaten the sh...t out of her so that she wouldn't be able to sit,"*. The girl also told the media about some of her classmates treating her with contempt: *"One day, we went out, and then [a classmate – editor's note] he told me to walk on to the middle of the street just when a large truck was approaching. After I did it and I told our tutor about this, he said 'it was just a joke',"*. When the schoolmaster learned that the girl had used the voice recorder, he filed a lawsuit against her at the Wieluń District Court. He claimed that she would "demoralise" other pupils. The girl's mother said, *"The judge heard [the girl – editor's note] with no psychologist present, but in the presence of the mothers of other pupils from this class and pupils themselves. Before the hearings, the classmates had threatened that they would destroy the girl in court,"*. The last court sitting took place on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. The court's decision was not made public. After journalists published the recordings and publicised the schoolmaster's treatment of the girl, the mayor of Konopnica, Grzegorz Tularczyk, suspended him. The Wieluń District Prosecutor's Office held an inquiry into the case of Włodzimierz P. and another of the teachers. The Superintendent of Schools was also informed about the case. In Poland, people on the autism spectrum are viewed in a stigmatising manner, and they experience discrimination in many areas of life, including accessibility to education and in the job market. Their stereotypical image is maintained by media, in ignorance of current state of knowledge about autism, and is frequently simply derogatory, which reinforces the feeling amongst sufferers of being different, provokes fear, and leads to social isolation.

**WARSAW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> June, on the air on **Radio Wnet**, Member of Parliament, **Marek Jakubiak** from a right-wing party, **Kukiz'15** said the following about the alleged consequences of the Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act: *"What we are witnessing right now is a very effective Israeli policy. For now, they will put the issue aside. But after the election, all hell will break loose. We will be put under pressure from three sides – the US, Israel, and New York-based Jewish communities,"*. He continued, *"The Germans stopped paying for the State of Israel. Israel is the only state in the world which doesn't live off of its own taxes but rather foreign donations. Up until now, those donations were provided by the Americans and the Germans. But the Germans got fed up with this and now it's only the Americans, and they are looking for money. And what I'm worried about, and I'm told more and more often about is that the Israelis came up with an idea – it's hard to live in Palestine, so they will move to Poland. And that worries me a lot,"*.

**TORUŃ.** On 12<sup>th</sup> June, **Stanisław Michalkiewicz** once again made false claims on **Radio Maryja** about financial demands to be directed towards Poland from the 'Jewish lobby in the United States' and Israel. Michalkiewicz said, *"... last year, the most important enterprise of the Holocaust Industry, i.e. the World Organisation for the Restitution of Jewish Property, in a letter to the Ministry of Justice in Warsaw, estimated the Jewish claims regarding so-called heirless property to be in the region of a trillion zlotys, which is equivalent to \$300 billion,"*. This same quote was also broadcast on **Telewizja Trwam**. Similar statements were made by Michalkiewicz in a programme broadcast by Radio Maryja on 19<sup>th</sup> June. 'Holocaust Industry' is a description set in an antisemitic conspiracy theory - an expression used by historical revisionists in order to minimise the tragedy of the Holocaust.

**LUBLIN.** Most likely on the night of 12<sup>th</sup> June, unknown perpetrators painted a star of David hanged on a set of gallows on the walls of a tenement building on Sądowa Street. A resident attempted to inform the police by calling the police station on Okopowa Street. She reported the

conversation as follows: “... I wanted to describe the situation but was very surprised by the reaction, I was fobbed off. I was told to contact the owner of the building, because allegedly only he could report such a case. My complaint was rejected.”. Following the intervention of *Gazeta Wyborcza*, the police commenced investigations ‘relating to a crime of hate speech,’.

**LUBIN.** On 14<sup>th</sup> June, a group of men attempted to interrupt an event designed to support people of sexual minorities, hosted by young activists of the left-wing party, Spring (*Wiosna*). The attackers, which included hooligans of the football club, **Zagłębie Lubin**, blocked the activists from painting a rainbow on the pavement, and yelled insults about ‘deviants’.

**WAŹWOLNICA.** On 15<sup>th</sup> June, on Lubelska Street, a stonemason’s workshop run by Krzysztof Kolibski, who, in cooperation with Jewish organisations, maintained historical artefacts related to the local community, was damaged. Amongst others, he repaired and erected tombstones in Jewish cemeteries, and also cleaned the damaged plaque commemorating the Jews murdered during World War Two and buried in the forest in nearby Karmanowice. With the use of heavy equipment, the stone cutting machines and a lathe in his stonemason’s workshop were destroyed, in addition to an office building and two cars. The antisemitic inscription, ‘*Jews Out*’ was sprayed in the workshop on one of the sandstone slabs, prepared for making a *matzevah* – a type of Jewish gravestone. The police detained **Krzysztof P.**, 36, and charged him with the offence of destruction of property. Separate proceedings regarding public hate speech on the grounds of nationality and religion were commenced by the Lublin-Południe District Prosecutor’s Office, but on 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2019, they were discontinued due to ‘*lack of characteristics of a prohibited act*’, i.e. the Prosecutor’s Office was not convinced any offence on the grounds of nationality or religion had taken place.

**CZĘSTOCHOWA.** On 16<sup>th</sup> June, members of **National-Radical Camp (ONR)**, **All-Polish Youth (MW)**, and football hooligans of **Raków Częstochowa** interrupted a Pride parade. The counter-protesters included Member of Parliament, **Tomasz Jaskóła** of **Unia Polityki Realnej**, (the Union of Realpolitik), in the Parliament as a member of the **Kukiz’15** group. Far right protesters chanted: ‘*Out with pervs!*’, ‘*Out with fags!*’ and ‘*Paedophiles*’. Moreover, they carried banners with the Celtic cross, and some participants had the same symbol tattooed on their bodies. In addition to displaying banners which called for violence against ‘ideological enemies’ with a symbol of a man hitting his victim on the ground. They attempted to block the Pride parade many times, and prevented it from reaching the Jasna Góra Monastery, where the parade was planned to conclude. The police intervened using batons and mace.

**ALEKSANDRÓW ŁÓDZKI.** On 21<sup>st</sup> June, in a city park, an unidentified man attacked an Indian citizen in a racially aggravated assault. He chanted insults and brutally beat the man. The injured Indian reported: “*He began to hit me on the head with a stick. I tried to defend myself, then he hit me everywhere...I fell. When I tried to get up, he hit me so hard that the stick broke. I started bleeding.*”. None of the witnesses to the event took any action. A female friend of the Indian man called an ambulance. The man was unconscious and was hospitalised. Police detained the attacker. “*He has been charged with assault and insulting an Indian citizen on grounds of his nationality,*” said Krzysztof Kopania, spokesman for the District Prosecutor’s Office in Łódź. The District Court in Zgierz ordered that the suspect be detained for three months pending further investigation.

**PRZEWORSK.** On 21<sup>st</sup> June, on a **Facebook** page of **Leszek Kisiel**, the local mayor, one Facebook user posted a comment on a post offering information on a local anti-mosquito campaign: “*But when will they start anti-faggot campaign in our country?*”. The mayor gave an unusual and approving response – “*Soon*”. He also posted greetings to another user who supported homophobic content.

## JULY 2019

**SZCZECIN.** In early July, unknown perpetrators vandalised three kebab restaurants on Wyszyńskiego, Budziszynska, and Druckiego-Lubeckiego streets. Windows were smashed, and in two of the restaurants a strong-smelling liquid was spilled. One of the restaurants is owned by a Syrian-born Kurdish man, a well-known entrepreneur who possesses Polish citizenship. A month previously in the Gryfino district of **GARDNO**, a display board of the same man's farming company had been daubed with the words 'Arab d...k'. A few days later, a masked man cut four tyres the Kurdish man's car. The police were called. The case was dropped as no perpetrator could be found.

**GDAŃSK.** On 7<sup>th</sup> July, on a local train between Gdańsk Przymorze and Gdańsk Żabianka stations, a passenger attacked an Indian student of Gdańsk University of Technology. He shouted at him, 'F...ck the Arabs', and hit him twice, punching him near his neck and kicking him in the chest. Fellow passengers assisted the student and stopped the attacker. The rector of Gdańsk University of Technology, Prof. Krzysztof Wilde, published a statement on this xenophobic attack: *"This could have happened to a student of any other university in our country, but also any person who comes to Poland, to Gdańsk, from another country. That is why the authorities of the Gdańsk University of Technology – a university which is dedicated to creating an open international community – once again call for respect of foreigners,"*.

**NOWY TARG.** On 9<sup>th</sup> July, local media reported that homophobic slogans and symbols had been painted on a building located on Wojska Polskiego Street, as well as on buildings of the power station near the ice hockey hall. The letters, 'LGBT' were inscribed on a 'STOP' sign along with the words, 'Stop perverts'. Other graffiti depicted a pornographic image undersigned with the words, 'Zakaz pedałowania' ('No way for gay'), as well as the racist symbol of the Celtic cross.

**ŻELICHOWO.** On 10<sup>th</sup> July, the media reported that on an asparagus farm in this village in the Czarnków-Trzcianka district, Polish supervisor, **Eugeniusz K.**, had mistreated Ukrainian workers. The supervisor's aggressive behaviour had been filmed using a mobile phone by a female employee. The video shows the overseer vulgarly berating the Ukrainians, and insulting them shouting, *"Stop your f...ing dilly-dallying, I said, Judas!"*. When he realised he was being filmed, he tried to grab the phone from the woman. A struggle ensued and one of the employees stood up to defend the woman. Eugeniusz K. threatened, *"If I beat the sh...t out of you, you'll turn upside down. Go away and shut up,"*, and *"Next time, I will f...g tear your hand or finger off,"*. A resident of Żelichowo posted the video online. The uploader reported: *"The Ukrainians were going around the village asking people for help. Yet nobody was interested in the recording. When they showed it to me, I decided to share it. ... Perhaps I should have gone to the police rather than uploading the video. But then the police got interested -they came to the field and wanted to talk with the Ukrainians. I only wanted to help, because Ukrainians are human beings just like us,"*. After the video was published online, Eugeniusz K. was fired from his farm job. The Ukrainian workers left Poland.

**WROCŁAW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> July, a xenophobic march took place in the city. The march was organised by former priest, **Jacek Międlar**, and leader of hooligans of **Śląsk Wrocław** football club, **Roman Zieliński**. Międlar's comments during the march included: *"Many years back, before 1943 ... Ukrainians revelled in anti-Polish sentiment,"*; *"How could we want Ukrainians to flood our homeland? We don't want it, so let's shout it loudly: anti-Bandera Poland!"*; *"Those who murdered us and our ancestors ... were Ukrainians, and today they worship the beasts,"*; and *"Where did this anti-Polish genocidal impulse come from? ... In orthodox church, or out of hatred that the*

*Ukrainians praised in their Uniate temples and households,”*. Additionally, Międlar invited a man to speak, who was introduced as Adrian from Ostrów Wielkopolski. He wore a t-shirt decorated with the racist symbol of the Celtic cross. The man said: “[for the sake of – editor’s note] *fake good relations, toadying to Ukraine, having some good neighbourly relations with an enemy state, we are murdering them [victims of the Wołyń massacre – editor’s note] again,”*. The march participants chanted, ‘Against Ukraine!’, and displayed a banner reading, ‘Death to the homeland’s enemies’ – a slogan currently used to incite to ideological violence- and some wore T-shirts with the slogan, ‘This is Poland, not Polin’, as well as with the Celtic cross. The delegate official of the municipal authorities decided to dissolve the march on the grounds that participants were inciting national and religious hatred. Deputy Chairman of the municipal council, Bartłomiej Ciążyński, who is the mayor’s social advisor for tolerance and anti-xenophobic policies, published a statement in which he described the march organised by Międlar and Zieliński as an ‘anti-Ukrainian hate show’, and gave examples of some of the slogans chanted: ‘Ukraine is proud of genocide, proud of massacre’, ‘Ukrainian blood is enemy blood’, and ‘What kind of nation is it? They are damn riff-raff’. Zieliński and Międlar appealed against the municipality’s decision. On 4<sup>th</sup> September, the Regional Court in Wrocław instituted a lawsuit, but the case was postponed.

**WARSAW.** During the night of 12<sup>th</sup> July, unknown perpetrators threw a bottle full of petrol at an apartment rented by a group of Ukrainians on Wolska Street. Fortunately, nobody was hurt. Moreover, the attackers painted xenophobic slogans in the staircase next to the flat occupied by the Ukrainians reading ‘Out of Poland’, ‘Scoundrels’ and ‘Ukrainian wh...s’.

**WARSAW.** On 14<sup>th</sup> July, four men shouted racist slurs towards professor Kesho Scott of the Grinnell College in Iowa, U.S.A. in front of a grocery store. They insulted her by shouting [in English – translator’s note]: ‘Ni...r’ and ‘Get out’ and spat. The men were aggressive and approached her. Professor Scott took refuge inside the store, asking those present for help. None of the Polish customers reacted to the event. Incidentally, there were two Ethiopian students at the store, who later escorted the scholar on foot to her hotel. The U.S. Embassy was informed about the incident.

**BIAŁYSTOK.** In mid-July, leaflets were hung which were offensive to people belonging to sexual minorities on the doors of buildings in the city centre, including those on Piłsudskiego Avenue. The text on the leaflets was as follows: “We would like to kindly inform you that on the afternoon of 20.07.2019, [when the Equality Parade was to take place in the city – editor’s note] *the streets and bus stops next to your block of flats may get contaminated. The bacterium that leads to this contamination comes from a family of microorganisms that corrupt entire societies. It brings with it serious degeneracy, the fall of human dignity and morality. The bacterium is called LGBT,”*

**BIAŁYSTOK.** On 17<sup>th</sup> July, fans of **Jagiellonia Białystok** used the internet to call for the participation of football fans from around the country in a congress to ‘defend the city against perverts’ to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> July. The date was the date on which the Equality Parade, a march in support of the rights and respect of people belonging to sexual minorities, was to be held. The message also contained a thinly-veiled call for aggression: “A handful of perverts from all over Poland are coming to our city, and under the guise of equality, want to attract to their circles young people from our city and region to their circles. ... we will gather in the city centre in the largest number possible and will take action,”. Support for their intentions was expressed by the team manager of Jagiellonia, **Arkadiusz Szczęsny**, who posted the following on Twitter: “Fans are the only social group that, though individually attached to various club colours, can unite in a just cause,”. A few days after the parade, during which hooligans caused riots against its participants and committed many acts of violence against them, Szczęsny was ‘admonished’ by the management

of Jagiellonia with regards to his comments.

**GDYNIA.** On 19<sup>th</sup> July, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Arka Gdynia** and Jagiellonia Białystok, local hooligans yet again displayed a banner depicting a Totenkopf, or Death's Head symbol - a characteristic skull used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps.

**BIAŁYSTOK.** On 20<sup>th</sup> July, the participants of the first Equality Parade in the city were brutally attacked by counter-demonstrators, leading to riots and numerous acts of aggression. The attackers were mostly football hooligans, primarily fans of **Jagiellonia Białystok**, but including visitors from Wrocław, Chorzów, Lublin, Suwałki, and Warsaw, as well as representatives of extreme nationalist groups, including **All-Polish Youth (MW)** and **Autonomous Nationalists (AN)**. Some residents of Białystok also joined them. The rioters threw cobblestones, firecrackers, flares, and stones at the participants of the march, pulled down rainbow flags - a symbol of sexual minority causes - and set them alight. They also spat, and committed physical assaults on several people, including minors, leading to physical injuries. The victims included a journalist of OKO.press, an investigative news website. Counter demonstrators chanted slogans such as: *'Fuck the w...ers'*, *'Białystok against perverts'*, *'Białystok free from deviants'*, *'All Poland sings with us, f ... the gays out of here'*, and *'No pedaling'* [a pedal is a derogatory slang term in Polish for a gay man – translator's note] . Many men wore T-shirts with such inscriptions together with a pornographic drawing; others exhibited multiple symbols of the swastika on their t-shirts, together with graphics calling for ideologically motivated violence. In addition, the counter-demonstrators blocked the route of the march at several points. Police intervened in an attempt to stop aggressive groups, using tear gas, firecrackers, and batons. According to Amnesty International, however, *"the police did not provide adequate protection to participants in the Equality Parade. Before, during and after the march, its participants were insulted and exposed to physical assaults in the absence of an appropriate police response,"*. After the march, the attackers pulled a number of individual participants out of the crowd, and committed acts of violence against them. That same evening, priests from the parish of St. Jadwiga Królowa in Białystok, in a publication posted on their website, thanked *"all those who have recently by any means participated in the defence of Christian and human values, protecting our city, especially children and youth, from the planned depravation and degeneration,"*. This post was widely commented in the media, and criticised for praising hostility and violence towards the participants of the Equality Parade. In response, the parish published a correction to the text which read: *"None of our priests accepts or tolerates the acts of aggression that took place during the march,"*. There was also an additional explanation that the thanks of the previous statement were directed towards 'all people of good will', who had signed 'the document protesting against the march of LGBT communities in Białystok,'. Following the Equality Parade, an entry on the primary website of Jagellonia Białystok supporters contained congratulations to the participants of the riots for their *"bold opposition to deviancy. ... Some media 'spit' at us or slander us, but we f... it!!! Białystok showed its positive side, firmly rejecting the perverts,"*. The page's editor also called on all hooligans to take aggressive action against the participants of the next march, planned in Płock: *"We have an agreement with many teams that we'll*



*"the police did not provide adequate protection to participants in the Equality Parade. Before, during and after the march, its participants were insulted and exposed to physical assaults in the absence of an appropriate police response,"*. After the march, the attackers pulled a number of individual participants out of the crowd, and committed acts of violence against them. That same evening, priests from the parish of St. Jadwiga Królowa in Białystok, in a publication posted on their website, thanked *"all those who have recently by any means participated in the defence of Christian and human values, protecting our city, especially children and youth, from the planned depravation and degeneration,"*. This post was widely commented in the media, and criticised for praising hostility and violence towards the participants of the Equality Parade. In response, the parish published a correction to the text which read: *"None of our priests accepts or tolerates the acts of aggression that took place during the march,"*. There was also an additional explanation that the thanks of the previous statement were directed towards 'all people of good will', who had signed 'the document protesting against the march of LGBT communities in Białystok,'. Following the Equality Parade, an entry on the primary website of Jagellonia Białystok supporters contained congratulations to the participants of the riots for their *"bold opposition to deviancy. ... Some media 'spit' at us or slander us, but we f... it!!! Białystok showed its positive side, firmly rejecting the perverts,"*. The page's editor also called on all hooligans to take aggressive action against the participants of the next march, planned in Płock: *"We have an agreement with many teams that we'll*

*all get together in Płock on 10.08 and chase the deviants away. ... There will be a replay of the entertainment in a week's time, because some f...ers are trying to build political capital from what has happened. We will consider our plans and will do something that will surprise them...".* Acts of violence against the participants of the Białystok Equality Parade were condemned by the Mayor of the city, Tadeusz Truskolaski. He also submitted a notification of an alleged offence of 'managerial influence in causing riots against the police' against local **Law and Justice (PiS)** activists, namely a local councillor of the Podlasie Voivodship, **Sebastian Łukaszewicz**; the acting head of the provincial government, **Robert Jabłoński**; and local councillor, **Henryk Dębowski** in connection with their participation in the riots. According to media reports, Łukaszewicz and Jabłoński together with **Tomasz P.** also known as '*The Dragon*' - the founder of the **Association of Fans of Jagiellonia Białystok, 'Children of Białystok'**, directed the actions of the aggressive counter-demonstrators. Tomasz P. has been the subject of investigations by the prosecutor's office dating back to 2013. He is suspected of leading an organised criminal group, publicly promoting a fascist state system, and inciting racial and national hatred. During the incidents at the Equality Parade, Tomasz P. was wearing a t-shirt with the inscription, '*Białystok against perverts*'. The police conducted an investigation to identify the perpetrators of violence during the parade. On 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2019, by decision of the Białystok Regional Court, **Mariusz J.** was detained for two months on suspicion of two incidents of battery against a fourteen-year-old boy on Suraska Street. The teenager was left with a broken collarbone. Policemen also detained the remaining three attackers on suspicion of participating in the incidents mentioned above. The Prosecutor's Office asked the District Court in the city of Białystok to extend the period arrest for Mariusz J. but the request was denied. The Prosecutor's Office appealed this decision, but on 26<sup>th</sup> September the District Court in Białystok upheld the verdict of the lower court, and the man was released. Lastly, a thirty-seven-year-old man was detained, who together with his son who was less than one year old, had invaded the space of the Equality Parade and attempted to block it. The man was charged with exposing the child to danger of loss of life or serious loss of health. An Investigation into the case is ongoing.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On the night of 20<sup>th</sup> July, a doorman of the **DoSopotu Club & Lounge** on Piotrkowska Street, engaged in a discriminatory act. He refused to admit two black couples to the club. One of the women, a student from Rwanda, told the media, "*The bouncer checked everyone's ID with no exception, and he let everybody in. Then it was our turn. When he saw us, he said straight away [in English – editor's note]: 'No, you cannot enter.' Then he added something in Polish, but we could not understand. ... He did not even want to check our IDs. We stood there for a while, watching everyone else entering the club.*". A person who witnessed this incident, a Polish man who had been stood immediately behind the Africans, described it similarly. He also heard the doorman insulting the students by saying, "*Ni...s are not entering.*".

**GDYNIA.** On 21<sup>st</sup> July, the Deputy Mayor, **Michał Guć** published a racist post on his **Facebook** profile. He posted a photo of black children in a river, and added the caption, "*Negro children are born white. Then they become coloured because they use such water every day.*". Guć's post met with criticism by fellow Facebook users. In response, the Deputy Mayor published a rather odd apology: "*Regarding the comments received from African people, who say that they don't like the word, 'Negro' [Polish: murzyn – translator's note], I am ready to inform you that the word for me was not depreciating or humiliating. On the contrary, I appreciate and love the beauty and freedom represented by the people of Africa. Nonetheless, as there are people of African descent taking part in this discussion, and they feel offended by these words – I apologise to them, and I state that that was not my intention.*".

**TARNÓW.** On 21<sup>st</sup> July, unknown perpetrators painted a five-metre-long slogan on the wall of an old Jewish graveyard on Szpitalna street. The graffiti read: '*Jews eat children. Jadowniki eat Jews*'

(Jadowniki is the name of a village in the Tarnów district). The following day, some residents of Tarnów covered the antisemitic graffiti with paint during an event organised by the Committee for Preservation of Historic Monuments of Jewish Culture in Tarnów.

**WARSAW.** On 24<sup>th</sup> July, a Member of Parliament from the ruling **Law and Justice (PiS)** party, Prof. **Krystyna Pawłowicz**, once again published an insulting comment on **Twitter** about people belonging to sexual minorities. She referred to equal rights being sought by this group in health care in the following manner: *“Well, I understand that they want to visit each other in animal shelters..., and not in hospitals. A vet will give permission without a special document...”*.

**GDAŃSK.** On 25<sup>th</sup> July, during a qualifying football match for the Europa League between **Lechia Gdańsk** and Brøndby IF of Copenhagen, local hooligans displayed a banner on the terraces with a symbol stylised to resemble a Celtic cross - a racist symbol.

**GORZÓW WIELKOPOSKI.** On 25<sup>th</sup> July, local media reported that in the city centre (including Warszawska street), displayed racist posters had been displayed containing the anti-immigrant slogan: *‘Gorzów is my home, and I don’t want any dirt at home!’*, as well as depictions of the Celtic cross and a white fist alongside the words, *‘White power’*, both of which are used to spread white supremacy ideology. Moreover, the posters presented graphic symbols inciting violence against *‘ideological enemies’* - a man beating up a person lying on the ground - as well as the *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol which was used by special units known as **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, which were in charge of guarding German concentration camps during World War Two.

**WROCLAW.** On 25<sup>th</sup> July, near Trzebnicki Bridge, an attacker assaulted the journalist and lecturer, Przemysław Witkowski. The victim reported, *“I was beaten up because I commented loudly on homophobic graffiti [on a wall of the embankment – editor’s note]. The guy asked me if I didn’t like these slogans. I answered yes, and I was battered -he uttered death threats and that he would get us all,”*. Witkowski voiced his disapproval of the slogans he spotted on the wall which read: *‘80% of paedophiles are also fa...ots’* and *‘Smash LGBT, react’*. The graffiti was signed by a far-right group known as the **Autonomous Nationalists (AN)** - the group’s initials were inscribed with the racist symbol of the Celtic cross. The suspect was arrested and faced accusations of harming another person’s health, as well as issuing politically-motivated death threats. As a result of the assault, Witkowski’s injuries included a broken nose and a fractured cheekbone. **Maciej K.** was charged with mugging, causing loss of health, and making punishable threats connected with political affiliation. On 21<sup>st</sup> October, the trial of this case commenced in the District Court in the city of Wrocław. According to the prosecution counsel, the accused had participated in extreme rightist demonstrations. This was confirmed by Witkowski: *“I have seen videos showing him creating graffiti with Celtic crosses”* which are symbols of racism. The last session of the trial took place on 4<sup>th</sup> November, and the verdict is expected in the middle of the month. The prosecution is aiming for a prison sentence of one year for Maciej K.

**CZĘSTOCHOWA.** On the night of 27<sup>th</sup> July at the **Rura** club located on Najświętszej Maryi Panny Avenue, an employee of a security firm attacked a woman because of her sweater, which was decorated with a decorative colourful heart design. The man (mistakenly) considered that the design signified support for LGBT people, and denied her access to the premises. The victim reported: *“He said, pointing to my sweater, that I could not come in wearing it, and that I should f... off. I was surprised and asked why. The answer was again to f...off and that it was not my territory.”*. The employee of the security firm then hit the woman in the face: *“There was instant bleeding, cut lips, blood from the nose. I must admit that I got so angry that I wanted to hit him back, but he knocked me over to the ground several times and then choked me,”*. The victim was taken to hospital. She

had torn ligaments of the neck, and had suffered a sprain in her cervical spine.

**WARSAW.** On 29<sup>th</sup> July, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** appeared on an episode of *Rzecz o polityce* ('About Politics'), a programme broadcast on the **YouTube** channel of the daily newspaper, *Rzeczpospolita*. His comments were antisemitic as well as offensive to people belonging to sexual minorities. During this conversation he referred, amongst other things, to the antisemitic stereotype of the so-called Holocaust Industry: "*My friend Michalkiewicz [Stanisław, a Radio Maryja journalist – editor's note] and I have always made loud protests not to give the 'Holocaust Industry' that \$65 billion.*". When asked by the presenter of the programme, Jacek Nizinkiewicz how he understood this concept, the politician replied, "*There is a group of a few hundred individuals, generally of a mercantile denomination, who founded a company that lures compensation on the pretext that it is for the Jews murdered or injured by the Holocaust. It worked very well ... it flourished, but, unfortunately, Germany stopped paying, so they have had to find new sources – and their choice fell on Poland. There is currently such a storming attack on Poland to make it pay. ... They are a bunch of cheats.*". Later in the programme, Korwin-Mikke, when asked about the rights of LGBT people, replied: "*The Law and Justice party currently has a president, a senate, and a parliament. If they so wanted, LGBT could disappear in a couple of days. For example, they could prohibit any homosexual propaganda in schools.*". He also stated that Equality Marches should be banned: "*Why do we have no problem with masturbators? There are more masturbators than homosexuals, or, yuck, gays. But the masturbators do not march on the streets, and do not demand that their relationships be recognised as marriage - there is no problem with them. The problem is not that someone's rights are being violated, but rather that a bunch of Westerners are making demonstrations in order to ... destroy the foundations of society.*". Summing up his thoughts, Korwin-Mikke added, "*I cautioned ten years ago that as long as there was this [homosexual – editor's note] propaganda, there would be pogroms. It has happened already in Bialystok, but this is just a taster of what will happen. There will, of course, be pogroms against the homosexuals.*".

## AUGUST 2019

**COPENHAGEN (DENMARK).** On 1<sup>st</sup> August, during a football qualifying match in the Europa League between Broendby Copenhagen and **Lechia Gdańsk**, visiting hooligans held a banner with a symbol stylised to resemble the Celtic cross - a racist symbol.

**KRAKÓW.** On 1<sup>st</sup> August, during a mass at St. Mary's Church on the anniversary of the outbreak of the Warsaw Uprising, the Archbishop of Kraków, Prof. **Marek Jędraszewski** delivered a sermon which was homophobic in its nature. He made the following statement: "*The red plague, fortunately, is no longer on our land, but it does not mean that there is no new plague that wants to master our souls, our hearts, and minds. It is not Marxist or Bolshevik, but born out of the same spirit, Neo-Marxist. Not red, but one with rainbow colours.*". Jędraszewski's words were met with many voices of criticism and outrage. Pickets were held under the offices of the regional bishop's office in Krakow as a sign of solidarity with people belonging to sexual minorities. Dominican, Fr. Paweł Gużyński encouraged people on his Facebook profile to send letters to the bishop expressing an '*expectation that he would resign honourably*' on account of the sermon. According to Fr. Gużyński, Jędraszewski's statements '*included signs of hate speech, in total conflict with the fundamental for every Christian principle of 'love thy neighbour*','. In connection with this initiative, the Dominican Order decided to punish Father Gużyński and instructed him to stay in '*one of the contemplative monasteries for a three-week penance*'. Outrage at the sermon was also expressed by veterans of the Warsaw Uprising, who issued a statement including the following words: "*We do not know how many of our friends were those to whom the Creator gave the characteristics referred to today as LGBT. We only know that they were among us, fought, and died.*"

*And they deserve memory, respect, and prayer,”*. The Archbishop of Kraków himself maintained the position expressed in St. Mary’s Church. In the 26<sup>th</sup> August edition of the weekly magazine, **Sieci** in an interview with **Jacek Karnowski** and Fr. **Henryk Zieliński**, the Archbishop argued, *“Paradoxically, it has turned out that the word ‘plague’ very accurately describes the cultural problem that we face today. The choice today is not between ‘black death’ and ‘red plague’, as Ziutek Szczepański wrote in 1944, but between normality and a very dangerous spiritual illness,”*. Again he used, in the context of LGBT people, - an extremely contemptuous comparison: *“Is someone fighting a plague, such as an epidemic of cholera, an enemy of those who suffer from these diseases and are in danger of losing life? Of course not,”*.

**ŁÓDŹ**. On 1<sup>st</sup> August, hooligans of the football club, **ŁKS Łódź** made threats and behaved aggressively towards municipal workers who were removing antisemitic graffiti from an old building. The graffiti contained the slogan, ‘*Jew Hunters*’, in which ‘*Jew*’ was painted with the colours of their rivals, Widzew Łódź, and ‘*Hunters*’ in the colours of ŁKS. The word, ‘*Jew*’ is frequently used amongst hooligans as one of the worst insults. The police were called. Police officers then protected the workers for several days.

**GDYNIA**. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Arka Gdynia** and Korona Kielce, local hooligans displayed a banner depicting a characteristic skull known as the *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol. This symbol was used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps. On 7<sup>th</sup> August, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined Arka Gdynia PLN 20.000 (approximately €4.600), suspended for six months, for this and a related incident which occurred on 19<sup>th</sup> July during a match against Jagiellonia Białystok. Arka Gdynia appealed against the decision, but it was upheld by the Supreme Appeal Committee.

**RZESZÓW**. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August, on the boulevards along the banks of the River Wisłok, an unidentified man attacked a woman who was wearing a hijab, a type of Muslim scarf, and her three-month-old baby. The victim reported: *“There were a lot of people around. Suddenly a man passing by knocked the pushchair in which my three-month-old son was sleeping with considerable force. Thank goodness I held it tightly, otherwise it would have probably overturned. The man shouted in my face ‘Get out of here, you dirty people’,”*. The attacker also made the gesture of fascist greeting, ‘*Heil Hitler*’ (a Nazi salute) and called out ‘*White power!*’, a popular racist slogan. His female companion attempted to stop his aggression, but he said loudly to her, *“What do I care about some little Arab brat? Or a dirty woman?”*. The Muslim victim described how the incident developed as follows: *“I shouted with all my might, ‘I am Polish and he is Polish!’*. He replied: *‘I don’t f...ing care. You must both be killed, you and him’,”*. The police were informed about the incident. **Marcin S.** was detained in connection with the incident, and the District Prosecutor’s Office for the city of Rzeszów charged him with directing criminal threats and insults related to religious affiliation. In a media statement, the injured Muslim woman also reported other cases of xenophobic aggression she has experienced: *“I converted to Islam when I was seventeen years old. It was a very conscious choice of my own. ... I wear a hijab, I have a rather dark complexion, so I often hear: ‘Take that rag off!’ on the street. Two years ago, in Rzeszów, a man attacked me. He called me names and chased me, but I managed to escape. That man was arrested and convicted. The punishment wasn’t severe. But I’ve never been scared as much as this time. My child has never been threatened before,”*.

**RADOM**. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, during a First Division football match between Radomiak Radom and **Stomil Olsztyn**, visiting hooligans displayed a **U.S. Confederate flag**, which was used by the racist South in the American Civil War, and has nowadays been adopted by numerous racist groups.

**WARSAW**. On 3<sup>rd</sup> August, journalist Karolina Korwin-Piotrowska reported aggressive behaviour

she encountered due to her shopping with a bag decorated with a rainbow pattern, which is a symbol of respect and support for people belonging to sexual minorities. Amongst other things, she was pushed into a market stall by an unknown man who shouted ‘*Dirty leftist*’. The journalist also described other events: “*Over the space of several hundred metres, when carrying purchases in a bag with a rainbow, I was spat at, and then heard a woman when whose children cried: ‘Mum, let’s buy a bag like this lady has’ answered them: ‘We are not perverts’,*”. In addition, at the sight of the rainbow bag, the neighbour of the journalist asked her, “*You are not a dike, so why this provocation?*”.

**MIELNO.** On the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> August, a group of around twenty men attacked a kebab bar which employed Turkish workers. The perpetrators shouted, ‘*Poland for the Poles*’, and ‘*Burn the dirties*’, in addition to throwing stones and bottles at them. A fight ensued and, as a result of the events, the owner of the premises suffered a broken leg. According to the victims, the assault was a ‘*retaliation*’, because that same night, a few hours earlier, on the promenade near the Albatros Hotel, located on Kościuszki Street, there had been an argument and struggle between some Poles and several Turkish kebab workers. At that time the aggressors had also directed racist insults at the Turks.

**WARSAW.** On 7<sup>th</sup> August, at a housing estate in Grochów, one resident shouted homophobic insults at a man and beat him up. According to the victim, the reason for the aggression was that he had drawn the attention of a couple playing tennis who had a dog with them to the fact that it was forbidden to bring animals onto the court. In response, he was subjected to insults such as: ‘*F... shit, fagot*’, ‘*Wanker*’ and ‘*Twat*’. When he tried to protest, the man was hit in the face with a racket “*so hard that I staggered. He threw himself at me and began to hit me, still grumbling about dikes and faggots. He dropped his racket. I caught it and tried to use it to repel the attack. He was stronger than me. He knocked me down, I couldn’t get up,*”. Witnesses to this incident did not respond to a call for help, except for one who called the police. According to the victim, when he was at the police station, the officers supposedly mocked him: “*They made jokes, I heard their words, it was all about sexual orientation. It was humiliating,*”.

**POZNAŃ.** On 9<sup>th</sup> August, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Lech Poznań** and **Śląsk Wrocław**, hooligans of both teams displayed hateful messages. Local hooligans held banners with the Celtic cross, a symbol of white supremacy. They also displayed a banner adorned with the letters, ‘*ŚZK - Death to the Jewish whore*’, which amongst hooligans is a popular, antisemitic insult used against fans of Widzew Łódź, and a flag reading ‘*F...ck Antifa*’, expressing hatred against groups which openly demonstrate their anti-fascism. Moreover, visiting hooligans displayed a characteristic red-and-white banner similar to the logo of the **Blood and Honour** organisation, which in turn took its name from the motto of the **Hitlerjugend** (Hitler Youth). Some of them wore t-shirts decorated with the slogan, ‘*White Empire*’.



**BIELSKO-BIAŁA.** On 11<sup>th</sup> August, during a First Division football match between **Podbeskidzie Bielsko-Biała** and **Stal Mielec**, local hooligans displayed a banner in the so-called ‘*nest*’ – an area reserved in the stadium for chanting and singing – which called for violence against ‘*ideological enemies*’. It depicted an oft-used symbol of a man hitting his victim on the ground. It contained graphics together with the expression used by neo-fascist communities, ‘*Good night left side*’, depicting an aggressive individual hitting a person lying on the ground.

**ATHENS (GREECE).** On 14<sup>th</sup> August, during one of a Europa League qualifying match between Atromitos Athens and **Legia Warszawa**, visiting hooligans chanted, “*F...ck Antifa*”. This slogan expresses hatred towards anti-fascist ideas and related values such as respect for diversity. It was used directly against the Atromitos fans, who are known to display banners with anti-fascist and anti-racist messages.

**BYTÓW.** In mid-August, Senator **Waldemar Bonkowski**, a parliamentary candidate from the Law and Justice party (*PiS*) list (from which he was later expelled) hung up huge banners in the town with the following slogans: ‘*No to the balkanisation of Poland!!! The Polish state should protect children against LGBT rainbow homo-propaganda, gender and sodomites! We do not want any deviant dictatorship!!! To the Holocaust industry we must say today no!!!*’. Bonkowski also exhibited these offensive boards in other towns of the Kashubian region as part of his campaign prior to the election on 13<sup>th</sup> October. They were all signed with his own name and included his own photograph. In mid-July, the senator published images with the same content on his **Facebook** profile.

**OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ.** In mid-August The March of Poles from Poland and Abroad, organised by the radical nationalist publicist, **Witold Gadowski**, took place in the former concentration camp, Auschwitz. The march was broadcast live on the **YouTube** channel of **Media Narodowy** (‘*Nationalist Media*’) with **Michał Jelonek**, the former spokesman for the **National Radical Camp** (*ONR*) presenting it. A number of participants interviewed on camera made statements with antisemitic content. The main topic of conversation concerned the alleged Jewish property restitution claims against Poland, but there were also references to other conspiracy theories. Jelonek asked a bizarre question: “*Is this camp and this Auschwitz area still under the jurisdiction of the Polish state, or are we now seeing the process of losing it?*”, to which one interviewee replied, “*We are losing it to the Israeli hegemony, and the same is happening in the Polin Museum. ... we are occupied,*”. In an interview with another participant of the march, the presenter suggested that the history of Polish victims of the camp had been minimised and appropriated by the Jews: “*It is now common to say that Auschwitz was a camp for Jews. Why do you think it is so?*”. The man answered: “*the Jews who are in the United States, mainly in New York, have been following one policy since the war. They did nothing, did not try to save their people, cared only for their businesses; they did not even accept the facts and the information about the situation in the camp which was reaching them at the time,*”.

**KRAKÓW.** On 16<sup>th</sup> August, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Wisła Kraków** and **ŁKS Łódź**, local hooligans displayed a banner to commemorate the leader of fascist hooligans of **Lazio Roma, Fabrizio ‘Diabolik’ Piscitelli**, who had been shot dead on 7<sup>th</sup> August in an execution-style hit. Polish members of the paramilitary group, **Wisła Sharks** entered into an agreement with Lazio hooligans, known for their Nazi beliefs, in 2015. Zbigniew Boniek, President of the Polish Football Association (*PZPN*), reacted to that incident in a tweet, writing, ‘*They might have gone a bit too far with that Diabolik thing*’. The Vice-President of Wisła Kraków F.C., **Jarosław Królewski**, completely trivialised the incident.

**GDYNIA.** On 17<sup>th</sup> August, during an Ekstraklasa match between Arka Gdynia and **Lech Poznań**, visiting hooligans displayed a banner with the *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol used by the **SS**, which had been used many times by Arka hooligans to no reaction on the part of the club or the Polish Football Association. This changed on 7<sup>th</sup> August, when the football association fined Arka Gdynia for that banner. This was a gesture of ‘solidarity’ by Lechia hooligans with the ‘persecuted’ Arka hooligans, as the two clubs have been allies for a long time.

**RADOMSKO.** On 17<sup>th</sup> August, members of the **National-Radical Camp (ONR)**, **National Movement (RN)**, and **All-Polish Youth (MW)**, along with **RKS Radomsko** football hooligans, attempted to interrupt a Pride parade. The attackers attempted to break through a police cordon and physically attack the Pride parade participants. They threw bottles and stones and chanted, “*The whole of Poland is singing with us, get the f... out with queers!*”, and “*Deviants!*” They also displayed a banner with the same insults. Several days earlier, far-right activists distributed homophobic leaflets in front of a church. These included statements like: ‘*Our town will be visited ... by men dressed up like dogs, naked pervs*’ and encouraged local residents to join the counter-protest.

**SOPOT.** On 17<sup>th</sup> August, a group of men attacked Michał Piękoś, a parliamentary candidate for the left-wing coalition, Lewica (*‘Left’*), at the train station. The politician had been collecting signatures for, amongst other things, a project stemming from a town council resolution to support people from sexual minorities. He had a rainbow flag with him, which is a symbol of the LGBT community. He reported: “*There were five of them. First they started to call me names, then threats were directed at me. ... One of the men spat on me,*”. Mr Piekos called the police and, fearing for his safety, began to record the attackers on his mobile phone. One of them shouted “*Get the f... out of here with that phone, you faggot,*” and hit him. The attackers then fled the scene of the incident.

**GORZÓW WIELKOPOLSKI.** On 18<sup>th</sup> August, during a Third Division football match between **KS Stilon Gorzów Wielkopolski** and Ilanka Rzepin, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner. It contained the slogan, ‘*LGBT deviants get out of Gorzów*’.

**GORZÓW WLKP.** On 24<sup>th</sup> August, supporters of the far right and some local residents attempted to disrupt the Equality March organised in support of people from sexual minorities. Even before the event began, an incident occurred. Superintendent Marcin Maludy, the spokesman for the Lubusz police, reported the following: “*Two men were arrested after they tried to barge into the park and disrupt the gathering. They were pacified by officers and detained. They will face charges of disturbing the law and order.*”. In addition, en route to the Equality March, its opponents set up a huge banner with the inscription, ‘*Deviants from the LGBT f...off from Gorzów*’, banners reading, ‘*LGBT rainbow plague*’, as well as boards with a fragment of a biblical verse, taken totally out of context and used as a threat : ‘*The payment for sin is death*’. On a block of flats, a banner was hung reading, ‘*the city of Gorzów free from the rainbow plague.*’

**STAROGARD GDAŃSKI.** During the night of 26<sup>th</sup> August, a group of hooligans attacked some students from Turkey at a local restaurant. The attackers were armed with a dangerous weapon (probably a machete), and used threats against the young men, like: “*Are you Turkish? Are you Muslim? Come over, I’m gonna beat you up,*”. The Turkish Embassy was notified about the incident. The victims were voluntary workers of a football club called Beniaminek 03 Starogard Gdański, and were helping organise an international football event, the Deyna Cup.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On the night of 27<sup>th</sup> August, a doorman at a pub on Piotrkowska Street directed antisemitic insults and threats against one customer, musician, Dawid Gurfinkiel. He shouted at him to “*f...-off to Israel ...*”, and threatened him with words, “*I know where you live,*”. The victim was wearing a chain with a Star of David around his neck, and according to him, this was the reason for the aggression of the doorman. When Gurfinkiel left the pub, a group of people followed him shouting at him that ‘*Jews always caused problems*’. None of the other security personnel reacted.

**WARSAW.** On 29<sup>th</sup> August, on the television programme titled ***W Tyle Wizji***, (*‘Behind TV’*) broadcast by the channel, **TVP Info**, journalist **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** once again took to insulting

Prof. Rafał Pankowski, co-founder of the “NEVER AGAIN” Association. In the opening discussion, which lasted over 23 minutes, together with **Stanisław Janicki**, he ridiculed the exhibition, *Never Again. Art Against War and Fascism in the 20th and 21st centuries*, organised in the Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War Two. During this exchange of views, Ziemkiewicz referred to the part of the exhibition which contained quotations from the Brown Book – an annual report which monitors events rooted in racism and xenophobia, which has been produced for many years by the “NEVER AGAIN” Association. Using terminology which degraded both the exhibition and the publication by “NEVER AGAIN” he stated: “The so-called exhibition from the pamphlet by ‘NEVER AGAIN’ and Mr. Rafał Pankowski – of whom we have often talked here, our favorite, who, while we are talking here, somewhere, at yet another American university is presenting a lecture about the fascism that reigns in Poland, and how Polish policemen murder Blacks – cannot be considered as art.” In a later portion of the programme Ziemkiewicz said, “Mr. Pankowski’s flyers are no art at all, and I will repeat that. It is pure, stupid political propaganda,” and Janecki agreed with those words.

**GDYNIA.** On 30<sup>th</sup> August, during an Ekstraklasa football match between **Arka Gdynia** and Górnik Zabrze, local hooligans displayed a banner with a characteristic skull known as the *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol. It was used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps. On 18<sup>th</sup> September, the Polish Football Association (PZPN) fined Arka Gdynia PLN 10.000 (approximately €2.300) for ‘displaying a banner with a prohibited symbol’.

**BIELAWA.** On 31<sup>st</sup> August, during a Fourth Division football match between **Bielawianka Bielawa** and Lechia Dzierżoniów, local hooligans displayed a banner with the slogan, ‘*The synagogue is not a joke, you all have Jewish blood*’. It was aimed at the supporters of the opposition team. Antisemitic slurs are considered worst insults amongst hooligans.



## SEPTEMBER 2019

**LJUBLJANA (SLOVENIA).** On 6<sup>th</sup> September, during a European Championship qualification match between Slovenia and Poland, hooligans of **Zagłębie Sosnowiec** displayed a banner stylised



to resemble the logo of **Blood and Honour**, an international neo-Nazi organization, the name of which was a motto of *Hitlerjugend* (the Hitler Youth). Moreover, the banner contained the slogan, ‘*It has always been and will be a pure country. My white friends will always fight Communism*’, which is a quote from a song by Honor, a music band which has frequently been known to praise National Socialism. The Polish hooligans displayed that banner even before the match had begun, and posed

with it for photographs in the centre of Ljubljana. The images were uploaded to the internet. Moreover, during the match some Polish hooligans wore t-shirts with the slogan, ‘*Death to the*

*enemies of our homeland*', which is often used by far-right organisations as an incitement to ideological hatred.

**RZESZÓW.** On 6<sup>th</sup> September, a derby football match between Stal Rzeszów and **Resovia Rzeszów** took place as part of the B1 Lower Junior tournament [group A (1)]. One of the parents supporting the visiting team made racist insults against a fourteen-year-old black player from the home team, shouting at him, *'you f...ing negro'*. In response to the shouts the boy left the pitch.

**POZNAN.** On 7<sup>th</sup> September, on Grobla Street, the city's residents painted over offensive slogans which had appeared on a wall opposite the Ethnographic Museum. Amongst the removed graffiti was the slogan, *'Jude raus'* (*'Jews out'*). This social action was organised by Maciej Krajewski, photographer and co-founder of the Łazęga Poznańska association.

**SZCZECIN.** On 11<sup>th</sup> September, **Dariusz Matecki**, a city councillor and candidate for the Polish parliament (Sejm) from the **Law and Justice (PiS)** list in the October parliamentary elections, at a joint press conference together with **Małgorzata Rudzka** from the **All-Polish Youth (MW)**, encouraged participation in a homophobic event that was to take place on Solidarity Square. Rudzka explained that this event *"would consist of the symbolic washing of the streets to clear the pollution caused by the LGBT stance against natural law and the family,"*, and Matecki added that it would serve as *"a symbolic gesture of removing ideology that we think should not be present in public life,"*. An activist of the All-Polish Youth urged people to bring *'disinfection equipment, brooms, and washers'*, whilst Matecki announced that during the event, signatures would be collected for a draft resolution, *'Szczecin free from LGBT ideology'*. The action of the councillor in cooperation with the All-Polish Youth was intended to be an expression of contempt for and opposition to the Equality March on 12<sup>th</sup> September - a demonstration for the rights of people belonging to sexual minorities. As a result of media criticism, Matecki's proposed event was ultimately cancelled.

**JUSTYNÓW.** On the night of 14<sup>th</sup> September, in a village in the eastern county of Łódź, unknown perpetrators painted Nazi symbols on a fence around the house of one of the residents - an activist of the Committee for the Defence of Democracy (**KOD**). Swastikas, the inscription, *'Jude'*, and stars of David were painted on the fence.

**ZIELONA GÓRA.** On 16<sup>th</sup> September, a **Law and Justice** party (**PiS**) Member of Parliament, Mr. **Jerzy Mańka** spoke abusively about people belonging to sexual minorities (LGBT) on **Radio Zachód**, a local radio station. He said, *"This is a disease that I think must be tolerated, but not affirmed,"*. He also added, *"You have to take care of them and talk to them, cure them because I think it is a disease. ... If someone is sick, they are subjected to treatment,"*> The World Health Organization (**WHO**) deleted homosexuality from its list of diseases in 1990. In September 2018, official recommendations of the UN Committee were published, in which there was a recommendation suggesting that Poland prohibited the use of the so-called conversion therapies 'to cure' homosexuality.

**WROCLAW.** On 17<sup>th</sup> September, the "NEVER AGAIN" Association was informed of racist posters which had appeared on Hirsfeld Square. They had the Celtic cross symbol on them, an allusion to *'white power'*.

**WARSAW.** On 21<sup>st</sup> September, on Szarych Szeregów Street, Member of Parliament, **Robert Winnicki**, elected to the Polish parliament (*Sejm*) from the **Kukiz'15** list, during a speech delivered at the election convention of the **Freedom and Independence Confederation (Konfederacja**

*Wolność i Niepodległość*) announced: “We are not here to talk: we are here to kick the LGBT people out from the Polish public space! Once and for all!”.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On the night of 21<sup>st</sup> September, four attackers beat and threw racist insults at a kebab bar employee, a Bangladeshi citizen, on Rzgowska Street. When the man left home for work, they shouted to him, “*Dirty nigger, don’t you want to make a kebab for me?*”. The attackers hit the victim on the back, and one of them struck him with a fist. When he tried to drive away, they dragged him out of his car. In the end, the victim managed to escape.

**ŻORY.** On the night of 21<sup>st</sup> September, a group of five men brutally beat a 19-year-old student from Ukraine. It appears that the attackers asked him where he came from, and when they heard the answer, they attacked him. They kicked the man all over his body and broke his teeth. The injured victim was taken to hospital. In connection with this event, Oleg Mandiuk, the Consul General of Ukraine in Krakow, visited Żory. According to media reports, he confirmed that the attack was due to the victim’s nationality.

**KALISZ.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, supporters of the far right and football hooligans tried to disrupt the Equality March organised to oppose discrimination against LGBT people. They threw firecrackers at its participants and shouted, ‘*Stop deviants*’, and ‘*No pedaling*’ (a ‘*pedal*’ is a derogatory Polish term for gay men). Police resorted to using pepper spray. **Sylwiusz J.**, the mayor of the village of Żelazków near Kalisz, also acted aggressively towards participants of the Equality March. He was arrested for violating the bodily integrity of police officers. On the same day, the **All-Polish Youth** association (*MW*) organised a contemptuous picket, during which men dressed in white overalls and gas masks swept the streets of the city to ‘clean’ them following the Equality March. The ideological goal of this event was presented as follows on social media: “*We will rid our city of all viruses of the disease known as ‘LGBT ideology’. The mobile circus which is to take place this day in Kalisz, is trying with all its strength to spread this disease in Polish towns,*”.

**PŁOCK.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> September, during an Ekstraklasa football match between Wisła Płock and **Wisła Kraków**, some visiting hooligans wore t-shirts decorated with the Celtic cross, a symbol of white power.

**WARSAW.** On 25<sup>th</sup> September, antisemitic posters were put up at bus stops. They included images of the following people: prof. Szewach Weiss, former Israeli ambassador to Poland; Georgette Mosbacher, U.S. ambassador to Poland; Anna Azari, Israeli ambassador to Poland; Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland; and Jonny Daniels of the From the Depths foundation. The images the slogans, ‘*Attention! Parasites*’, ‘*No more Zionism*’, and ‘*Stop the claims mafia! Stop the Jewish occupation!*’.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On 26<sup>th</sup> September, Jewish.pl, a website, informed that in one local district, football hooligans had painted antisemitic graffiti and Stars of David. This was probably an insult against Widzew Łódź supporters.

**WARSAW.** On 27<sup>th</sup> September, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** from the **KORWiN** party and **Confederation** (*KORWiN* and *Konfederacja*) appeared on an episode of **Biedrzycka Express** broadcast on the **YouTube** channel of the TV news programme, **Super Express** and spoke of the possibility of homophobia-related murders. According to him, the deans of Polish universities had allegedly announced that the ‘*universities should remove scholars uttering disparaging opinions about LGBTQZ (sic)*’. His comment was: “*I wonder sometimes whether we need a revolution simply to slaughter all these people. (...) Slaughter the elites who support such deviants - at this*

point these LGBTQZ deviants all need to be named,”. He also added, “the masturbators – that is also a form of deviancy, it is widespread, there are many more of them than those yuck!, gays, but somehow they do not go on the streets, do not go on demonstrations. And if those yuck! gays, did not rally, there would be no problem,”. He concluded his comments adding, “the deviants are tolerated on purpose in order to destroy normal society,”.

**GDAŃSK.** On 28<sup>th</sup> September, a hooligan of **Lechia Gdańsk** attacked Member of Parliament, Ewa Lieder, a candidate of the Civic Coalition (*koalicja obywatelska*) and her husband whilst they were hanging election banners. The attacker shouted, “*Jewish whore*”, knocked a telephone out of her husband’s hand, and threatened to “*bash his skull in*”. Ewa Lieder said that she had been also attacked on 6<sup>th</sup> June in the area around the Central Railway Station. She said on television: “*I was walking down the street ... looking at my phone. A young woman, a bit taller than me, forcefully punched me in the forehead. ... My vision turned black for a moment. The woman walked away quickly,*”. According to the MP, the attacks are related to her political affiliation.

**PULAWY.** On 28<sup>th</sup> September, during a Third Division football match between **Wisła Puławy** and Stal Kraśnik, local hooligans displayed a homophobic banner. It read, ‘*No to Homo-propaganda*’. Moreover, Wisła hooligans displayed a banner with the Celtic cross, a racist symbol, partially covered.

**KRAKÓW.** On the night of 28<sup>th</sup> September, in front of a gay club, Cocon, on Gazowa Street a young man was attacked by two others. They knocked him to the ground, kicked him, and sprayed him with tear gas. They shouted threats and abusive comments towards other visitors to the club: “*I will f...ing kick you,*” , “*f... yourself you f...ing ass, you w...er*”, “*do we have to send you all to the gas chambers?*”, “*F... Queers*”, and “*ban queering*”. The police were subsequently called. Sebastian Glen, spokesman for the Provincial Police in Krakow, confirmed that the officers had been called four times in 2019 to deal with acts of violence against the guests of Cocon club: “*in each case, the interventions were not followed by further actions, because the victims had made no formal complaints*”.

**TARNÓW.** On the night of 28<sup>th</sup> September, unknown perpetrators once again painted an antisemitic slogan on the wall of a historic Jewish cemetery. The inscription read, ‘*Confederation against Jews #447.*’ **The Freedom and Independence Confederation** (*Konfederacja Wolność i Niepodległość*) is a party which brings together representatives of far-right groups such as the **National Movement (RN)** and **KORWiN**, which, under the pretext of criticising US Law No. 447 (regarding the restitution of the property of Holocaust victims) has repeatedly been involved in antisemitic incidents.

**GDYNIA.** On 29<sup>th</sup> September, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Arka Gdynia** and Piast Gliwice, local hooligans displayed three flags with Nazi symbols. They represented a characteristic skull known as the *Totenkopf*, or Death’s Head symbol, which was used by **SS-Totenkopfverbände**, who served as guards in German concentration camps.

**KRAKÓW.** On 29<sup>th</sup> September, during the derby football match between **Wisła Kraków** and Cracovia Kraków, some Wisła hooligans wore t-shirts adorned with the slogan, ‘*Death to the Jewish whore*’. Antisemitic slurs are considered the worst insults among hooligans.

**KRAKÓW.** Most likely on the night of 30<sup>th</sup> September, unknown perpetrators devastated a part of the historical Ghetto walls located on Limanowska Street. They painted a swastika and a sign reading, ‘*F...ing Jews get the f... out of Poland*’ on it, and smeared tar on a plaque on the wall.

## OCTOBER 2019

**ŁAMBINOWICE.** On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at the Museum of Prisoners of War, the Vice President of the **Institute of National Remembrance**, Prof. **Krzysztof Szwagrzyk** was interviewed by **Jacek Międlar**, a former priest and leader of the extreme right, and a known supporter of racist ideology. When Międlar expressed his belief that the term, 'żydokomuna' [an invented Polish abusive term, 'Judeo-communism' - editor's note] was the correct description of the alleged 'over-representation of Jews in the secret police' professor Szwagrzyk did not condemn the use of the word, which has its roots in antisemitic conspiracy theories. His comment was that "there are two schools of thought: people who recognise that there is not even a grain of truth in it, and those who believe that this term is a negative term, but not without some justification,". Later the Vice President of IPN said, "Both in the UB (Secret Police), and in the department of military information, as well as in the ranks of civil militia, also the judiciary (...) the percentage of people of Jewish origin occupying specific, often managerial positions, was high. This is a historical fact,". At the end of the interview, Międlar, referring to one of the statements of Szwagrzyk, said: "We started with Judeo-communism, and it seems to me we have sort of finished with it too". His words once again did not warrant a response from the Vice President of IPN.

**WROCLAW.** On 4<sup>th</sup> October, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Śląsk Wrocław** and Jagiellonia Białystok, a local hooligan who was directing chants displayed a scarf stylised to resemble the characteristic red-and-white logo of **Blood and Honour**, an international neo-Nazi organisation, the name of which was a motto of **Hitlerjugend** (the Hitler Youth). The scarf also depicted the Celtic cross, a symbol of white power.

**WARSAW.** On 7<sup>th</sup> October, journalist **Dominik Zdort** published an article with racist content in the weekly magazine, **Sieci** (issue 40/2019), as well as on the **wPolityce.pl** website. Referring to the Athletics World Cup in Doha which had concluded on October 6, he said, "I saw the representatives of France, Germany, Italy ...running in the races. They were all Negroes, or, at best, half-breeds. The only sportsmen wearing their national skin colours were the Poles, a Ukrainian and a Japanese man,". He also added, "it's not fair that countries in which the majority of the population is white, send those from the [coloured] minorities to the games,". At the end of the article the journalist formulated a bizarre proposal: "If we don't want racial segregation - that is organising separate championship for white and coloured sportsmen – then we need to appreciate as soon as possible those who in many disciplines have become a minority. The time has come when white people deserve special treatment,". Since 2017 Zdort has been the head of the internet website, **tygodnik.tvp.pl**, the online magazine of the Polish state television, **TVP**. TVP has expressed no public condemnation of the statements contained in the article.

**RZESZÓW.** On 9<sup>th</sup> October, during a football match in the B1 Lower-Junior tournament (group A – 1) between Stal Rzeszow and **DAP Dębica** at the city stadium on Hetmańska Street, the coach of the visiting team, **Bogdan Cabaj** shouted the abusive term, 'nigger' towards a black player of Stal. The referee showed him a red card and dismissed him to the stands. One of the parents supporting the young players recorded Cabaj's comments on a mobile phone: "I admitted that I shouted what I shouted, and what is the problem? Is he or isn't he black? Do we deny reality? The words just sort of popped out of me,". Due to the number of such incidents in the stadium, the management of the Stal team issued a statement in which they strongly condemned "the toxic and outrageous racist behaviour by the fan club of **Resovia Rzeszów** and the coach of one of the Podkarpackie region clubs towards our fourteen-year-old player. ... Expressing racist and vulgar comments towards anyone is deserving of criticism, but directing them at children is something to be denounced as strongly as possible and eradicated,". In the same statement that club reported that in an earlier match, a DAP

Dębica player had shouted racist insults toward the same Stal player.

**TARNÓW.** On 9<sup>th</sup> October, Martin Pulit, former President of Radio Kraków, reported on social media that graffiti reading, ‘*death to the Jews*’ had been sprayed on the wall of an apartment block.

**POZNAŃ.** On 10<sup>th</sup> October, the owner of a pizza restaurant on Ściegienny Street resorted to physical violence against his Ukrainian employee, who was demanding his outstanding salary. The manager attempted to force the employee out of the premises, and then hit him in the face. The victim reported: “*My nose was bleeding, and he me told me to clean the puddle of blood which had quickly appeared on the floor.*”. The victim went to the hospital, and was discovered to have a broken nose. The Ukrainian is a graduate of a drama school and an actor, who, amongst others, has appeared in productions at the *Teatr Polski* (Polish Theatre) in Poznań. The theatre management condemned this xenophobic aggression. On 14<sup>th</sup> October, the Human Rights Ombudsman, Adam Bodnar appealed to the District Employment Inspectorate in Poznań to investigate this case.

**WARSAW.** On 11<sup>th</sup> October, film director and **Confederation** (*Konfederacja*) Member of Parliament, **Grzegorz Braun**, appearing on an episode of the programme, *W cztery oczy* (‘Face-to-Face’), broadcast on **YouTube** channel, **wRealu24**, expressed offensive comments towards Ms. Olga Tokarczuk, recent winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. Due to her views, she has been under attack from the far right for a long time. The Confederation politician stated: “*She is a witch. She is a person who promotes various forms of the occult. She is ... under such pressure to steer people towards everything that is non-Polish and non-Catholic. ... In place of the true faith we get some quasi-religions of ecology, and, of course, Judaism is likewise surrounded by a divine cult.*”. Later on in his appearance, Braun progressed to deliberations on the topic of alleged Jewish ritual murders. The interview was conducted by **Marcin Rola**, creator of internet TV channel, **wrealu24**, which is well-known for publishing materials with xenophobic and antisemitic content.

**WARSAW.** On 14<sup>th</sup> October, **Janusz Korwin-Mikke** appeared on a programme on the **YouTube** channel, **wRealu24**, and talked about the political party he established, the **Confederation of Freedom and Independence** (‘*Konfederacja Wolność i Niepodległość*’), which won seats in the parliamentary elections on 13 October. He said, “*We are not antisemites ..., but we do hate Judeo-communism. .... There remains [in Poland] żydokomuna [Judeo-communism], i.e. those people who know only how to share public money; how to employ another Jew to fill any vacancy, and how to spend the taxpayer’s money. They contribute nothing. We hate these people, but it has nothing to do with antisemitism.*”. Later he added, “*the problem is that the Jews are a very capable people. This is a very capable and therefore dangerous branch of Communism.*”. The subject of LGBT appeared in the interview as well. Korwin-Mikke demanded once again an introduction of laws “*making public street parades by a variety of perverts illegal; forbidding them access to schools, or appearances on TV. They are much more dangerous than the flu or measles germs, because they infect the entire society. German measles will go away, but they do not.*”. The programme was presented by **Krzysztof Lech Łuksza**, who expressed his appreciation of the comments by Korwin-Mikke.

**ŁÓDŹ.** On 15<sup>th</sup> October, a parking attendant at a car park on Piotrkowska Street attacked an Egyptian citizen on racist grounds. The man had mistakenly driven into the car park and tried immediately to leave, but the security guard dropped the barrier and blocked his path. He demanded payment for entry to the car park and did not accept the explanations by the Egyptian. He shouted the insult, “*F...-off out of our country, you dirty ciapate!* [‘*ciapate*’ is an ethnic slur used to describe dark-skinned people – translator’s note]”, and stabbed the victim’s hand with a knife. The police were called to the incident. The victim reported: “*They did not treat this case seriously. They did not even detain the man.*”. The officers did not secure the implement with which the Egyptian

citizen was attacked.

**POZNAŃ.** On 17<sup>th</sup> October, a female local resident directed racist insults and threats at a man who in a discussion on Facebook had spoken favourably of the Qur'an, denying comments which asserted that the book calls on its readers to commit hateful acts. In response to his words, the woman, who according to media reports is a member of the **National-Radical Camp (ONR)** wrote: *"People like you get their heads banged against the curb by me. F... you, your dirty friends and Allah ... f...ing beasts who have invaded our civilization. Get back home and f... your goats. That is all you are good for. White power and death to the ciapate ['ciapate' is an ethnic slur used to describe dark-skinned people – translator's note],"*. The man to whom all this was addressed is a Poznań doctor of Arab origin.

**WARSAW.** On 18<sup>th</sup> October, the writer and screenwriter, Janusz Anderman published a selection of abusive comments and threats targeted at Olga Tokarczuk which the readers of the weekly magazine, **Sieci** had posted on the internet forum of the newspaper (there was no response from its management). On 10<sup>th</sup> October, Tokarczuk was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. Her writing and her various media statements looked critically on the history of the relationship between Poles and national minorities - a relationship which has often been idealised and presented from only one perspective, that of the majority population. Tokarczuk's views have often brought her under attack from supporters of extreme nationalism. The examples of J. Anderman's anti-Tokarczuk entries cited included: *'go back to ISSrael. A perfect state for the anti-Polish cattle,'*; *'A trip to the Arab States'*; *'go back to where you belong, Tokarczuk because it is not Poland'*; *'She is not Ukrainian ,she is German'*; *'Jude-asses have it all – they get Nobels, Oscars because of their roots'*; *'A Ukrainian woman will not support Poland. I just wonder why she lives here. Just to spit on Poland?'*; *'Soros donated the money for this Nobel prize. A German accusing us Poles'*; and *'We will wake up and get this locust off the healthy tree which is Poland,'*.

**WROCLAW.** On 18<sup>th</sup> October, near the Main Square, two men were attacked for homophobic reasons. One of the victims was wearing a rainbow band on his hand, which is a symbol of the LGBT community. The attackers asked the men, *"Are you homos?"*, and then aimed blows to their faces. One of the victims was knocked to the ground and kicked around the body. As a result of the beating he suffered injuries to his head and ribs, and a cut to the eye brow.

**WARSAW.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> October, Dr. **Mirosława Modelska-Creech**, was interviewed during a programme on **YouTube** channel, **wRealu24**. She is a University lecturer, and has worked as a translator at The White House, for the Pentagon, and for NASA. She was also a **Confederation of Freedom and Independence (Konfederacja Wolność i Niepodległość)** candidate for in the parliamentary elections on 13<sup>th</sup> October. In the interview she expressed some peculiar opinions. One was to the effect that the Jews shared responsibility for the Holocaust, and she addressed Israeli journalists with the comment, *"You too took part in the Holocaust - you hunted your own brothers,"*. She claimed that the Jews suffered from sixty different diseases as a result of incest committed over the centuries. Lastly, she justified the Jedwabne pogrom in 1941 by saying, *"There were maybe 150 Jews, and forty-nine of them had joined the NKWD (the precursor of the KGB) and it was those forty-nine young NKWD men who were incarcerated, which was a routine practice,"*. The presenter of the programme was **Marcin Rola**, the man who established the YouTube channel, wRealu24. Their studios are in the former building of PAST (the Polish postal service), which was captured by the Poles during the Warsaw Uprising and has become a symbol of the fight against fascism. Despite the calls by the "NEVER AGAIN" Association, the Warsaw local authority took no action to stop this racist tv station using the premises.

**POZNAŃ.** On 25th October, during an Ekstraklasa match between **Lech Poznań** and Zagłębie Lubin, local hooligans hung a banner on the terraces which was offensive towards Krzysztof Grabowski, nicknamed ‘Grabaż’, a musician, composer and vocalist of the bands, *Strachy na Lachy* and *Pidżama Porno*. The banner read, ‘*The esoteric Poznan f... s Grabaż*’, referring to the well-known song of *Pidżama Porno*. This was the hooligans’ reaction to the new album entitled *The Seller of Tomorrow* which contains tracks with a clear antifascist message, and is critical of extreme right-wing hatred and violence. Grabaż supported the social campaign, *Music Against Racism* organised by the “NEVER AGAIN” Association, and has many times publicly expressed his support for the association’s activities.

## **NOVEMBER 2019**

**WARSAW.** On 2<sup>nd</sup> November, a bus driver refused to help a disabled passenger get on and off the bus. He did not extend the platform and did not lower the entrance, despite pleas from the woman who was accompanying the passenger. A complaint was filed against the driver. On numerous occasions, the “NEVER AGAIN” Association has offered Warsaw City Hall to hold free-of-charge workshops for public transport employees about discrimination and violence against the disabled. However, the City Hall was not interested.

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The “NEVER AGAIN” Association expresses special thanks to its national network of voluntary correspondents and various minority communities for cooperation in collecting information.

The ‘Brown Book’ is a documentation which monitors crimes committed by neo-fascists and the extreme right, as well as racist, xenophobic and homophobic incidents, and acts of discrimination in Poland. It has been run by the “NEVER AGAIN” Association continuously since 1996.

The initiator and creator of the ‘Brown Book’ for many years was the late Marcin Kornak (1968-2014), the founder of the “NEVER AGAIN” Association.

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In 2019, the ‘Brown Book’ has won the support of the Citizens Fund, governed by the Fund for Poland as part of a competition under the honorary patronage of Adam Bodnar, the Speaker of Civic Rights (Ombudsman). In 2018 he received the Norwegian Thorolf Rafto Prize, awarded for championing human rights and independent judiciary in Poland. In accordance with the wishes of Adam Bodnar, this prize was donated to the Citizens Fund to promote activity for civic rights in Poland.