

‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association

‘This Is a Polish Bench’

***A report on xenophobic hostility
towards children and young people***

BIG OR SMALL



~~DEPORT THEM ALL~~

WELCOME THEM ALL



Warsaw, September 2026

SUMMARY

Legnica, Gdansk, Olsztyn, Szczecin, Warsaw, Wroclaw – these are just some of the Polish cities across the country where refugee kids have been assaulted in recent months. To mark the start of the new school year, the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association is publishing a report entitled ‘This Is a Polish Bench’ on manifestations of xenophobic hostility towards children and young people.

The report has been sent to the Office of the Ombudsman for Children, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Ministry of National Education in Poland.

The 50-page report by the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association documents attacks targeting refugee children who have fled war, particularly those from Ukraine, as well as children from migrant families, children with darker skin tones and children with disabilities. The publication covers selected incidents that occurred between 2022 and 2026.

Among the examples of discrimination and aggression documented in the report are cases of pupils being harassed in schools on the grounds of their nationality or skin colour, discrimination in access to playgrounds or sports facilities, as well as intimidation, threats and insults directed at children and teenagers either in person or on social media. In 2026, significantly more such incidents were recorded than in previous years.

- ‘Violence against children is morally reprehensible, yet for far-right propagandists who spread this hatred, only their political and financial interests matter’, comments Lukasz Jakubowski, a representative of the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association.

Young people from 148 different countries study within Poland’s non-university education system, making up 5.3 percent of the student population. This encompasses 353,000 individuals, which includes 237,000 school pupils, 62,600 nursery school children, and 53,400 adult education learners. Among this international group, the vast majority come from Ukraine at 84 percent, followed by Belarus at 9 percent, Russia at 1 percent, and Vietnam and India at less than 1 percent each. Looking at the Polish school system as a whole, children from Ukraine alone make up 4.1 percent of all pupils.

The ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association has been conducting anti-discrimination trainings and workshops for teachers, youth workers and students for several years. Participants learn how to recognise racism and xenophobia, including hate symbols used by neo-fascist groups and shared in online spaces. They also learn how to respond to prejudice and how to support people who experience discrimination.

Furthermore, since 2020, the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association has been involved in an online educational initiative under the title Watch Out, run in collaboration with the Forward Foundation. The project’s website features lectures by experts in history, sociology and social psychology, lesson plans for history, social studies and form time sessions, as well as teaching materials for use in English classes. More information about the Watch Out project: <https://www.nigdywiecej.org/en/our-news/183-articles-from-2020/4442-watch-out-a-new-anti-fascist-educational-initiative-online>

The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association is an independent anti-racist organisation founded in Warsaw in 1996. In recent years, it has published, amongst other things, a report entitled ['Let's Maintain Solidarity with Refugees'](#) on cases of discrimination and hate speech against Ukrainians in Poland in the context of the ongoing war. It has also published a study on online hate speech directed at refugees from Ukraine, entitled 'How to Count Hate: Haters on Ukrainians'. The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association also runs the Minorities for Peace initiative. This project supports Ukrainian refugees and anti-war dissidents from Russia who belong to ethnic minorities and Indigenous communities. 'NEVER AGAIN' cooperates with the European Network for Solidarity with Ukraine (ENSU).

Examples of incidents described in the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association's report:

WARSAW. On 2 September 2022, a group of aggressive men and a woman hurled xenophobic insults at a group of young people from Ukraine. They prevented them from using the pitch where the Ukrainians were playing football with Poles and Belarusians. The attackers shouted, 'This is a Polish school! Not Ukrainian! Get the f*ck out of here!'

LUBLIN. On 7 January 2023, two men assaulted a Ukrainian woman, her 13-year-old son and her adult pregnant daughter. When the attackers heard that the family was talking in Ukrainian, they shouted insults, 'Ukrainian wh*res', 'F*ck Ukrainians' and 'Get the hell out of Poland'. When the boy tried to call the police, they pushed him to the ground and punched him in the head. They also assaulted the pregnant woman, despite her shouting that she was pregnant.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 31 August 2023, at one of the town's football pitches in Komorowice district, a group of teenagers brutally beat up two brothers, refugees who had been evacuated from Afghanistan with their parents.

WARSAW. On 7 June 2024, Member of Polish Parliament Grzegorz Placzek from the far-right Confederation party posted a video on TikTok in which he spread false claims that Ukrainian children were receiving preferential access to haemophilia treatment.

SZCZECIN. On 1 August 2025, a Facebook user incited violence against people with disabilities and made threats against a girl with Down syndrome. The man called for the child 'to be thrown into the river' and referred to people with disabilities as 'subhumans'. He wrote that the 'defective thing' should be 'f*cking tossed into the Vistula River' and sent to the 'gas chambers'.

OSTROW MAZOWIECKA. On 25 September 2025, on a housing estate a local resident assaulted an 11-year-old dark-skinned boy. He hurled racist abuse at him and kicked him twice.

WARSAW. On 27 October 2025, a post appeared on the Twitter/X account of Korona Warszawa (Warsaw branch of the far-right party Confederation of the Polish Crown) condemning the medical aid provided by the Polish government to children in Ukraine.

SLUPSK. On 17 November 2025, several students of the Building Construction School attacked four Ukrainian teenagers from the private School of Crafts in Slupsk. As the Ukrainian students were walking to a bus stop, a group of Polish students followed them, shouting 'Ukrainian

wh*res' and 'F*ck Ukraine'. One boy suffered a broken collarbone, while another was suspected of having a concussion. On the day of the attack and in the preceding weeks, a teacher at the school had made contemptuous and xenophobic remarks about Ukrainian students.

POZNAN. On 15 July 2026, Prof. Stanislaw Zerko, an employee of the Institute for Western Affairs, a state research centre, published a series of shocking posts on Twitter/X mocking the tragic fate of refugee children. He used a photograph of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian refugee who drowned in 2015. The photo of the child's body lying on a beach shocked public opinion around the world at that time and became a symbol of the humanitarian crisis Zerko mockingly captioned the image, 'I was so moved, my eyes filled with mustard'.

LEGNICA. On 18 July 2026, 26-year-old Karolina O. attacked a group of six 13- and 14-year-old girls from Ukraine in a playground. The mother of two of the affected children described the incident, 'A woman approached them with her two daughters and told them, «You are in Poland, speak Polish». She punched one of my daughters' friends in the neck with her fist. The girl fell to the ground. At the same moment, my daughter was punched in the face. [...] A moment later, a Ukrainian boy approached, wanting to defend the children. He was also hit and suffered a broken nose'.

LODZ. On 3 August 2026, a video documenting an attack on a Ukrainian teenager by an unknown man was posted on Facebook. At a tram stop, the aggressor hurled nationality-based abuse at the teenager. He shouted, 'F*ck Ukraine! F*ck you, c*nts! You're in my country, Poland. And why aren't you at war and fighting? You could have been fighting for your country, you c*nt!'

BYDGOSZCZ. On 14 August 2026, a woman and a man attacked two Ukrainian siblings: a 14-year-old girl and her 12-year-old brother. The incident was reported by the Consulate General of Ukraine in Gdansk, 'Two Ukrainian minors [...] were subjected to aggression by adults solely because they were speaking Ukrainian to each other. The attackers also resorted to physical violence'.

‘This Is a Polish Bench’

A report on xenophobic hostility towards children and young people

YEAR 2022

WARSAW. On 9 March 2022, in a broadcast on **wRealu24 TV** (a far-right YouTube channel), **Marcin Rola** espoused extremely negative views towards refugees from Ukraine and spread disinformation about the alleged privileges of Ukrainians in Poland, including children: *‘And here, bam! – they get a personal ID number, bam! – free health care, bam! – privileges for entrepreneurs, setting up a business, no taxes, 500 plus, 300 plus, some starter kits for children [different types of social benefits – translator’s note]’* and *‘Maybe I should get myself some refugee documents, I will not pay tax, I will have everything for free, maybe I will get a flat’*.

KRAKOW. On 15 March 2022, local media reported that the Head of the Board of Education for the Malopolskie Voivodeship, **Barbara Nowak**, made discriminatory decisions that made it difficult to admit children from Ukraine to schools. Nowak provided school directors with guidelines on the acceptance of Ukrainian children to schools, according to which *‘the criterion of knowledge of the Polish language should be applied’*. The non-compliance of these guidelines with the existing regulations was indicated in a press statement by Anna Korfel-Jasinska, vice-mayor of the city responsible for education: *‘If the parents choose a class with open admittance for their child, the child should be admitted’*. Nowak also blocked efforts made by Krakow City Hall to increase the quota of students in classes (from 28 to 37) in order to provide access to education for children from Ukraine. According to the media, after the announcement of new guidelines by Barbara Nowak, the August Witkowski High School in Krakow refused to accept several Ukrainian students.

WARSAW. On 27 March 2022, **Lukasz Warzecha** (a columnist for the right-wing weekly **‘Do Rzeczy’**) published a video on his YouTube videoblog in which he presented a claim that Ukrainian children would pose a health risk in Polish schools. Warzecha, who also sympathises with the anti-vaccination movement, said: *‘Refugees who come to Poland [...] have a problem with vaccinations [...] against genuinely dangerous diseases [...] and this problem, unfortunately, concerns children who immediately join Polish children in schools. We are talking about diseases such as whooping cough and polio. And here we do not hear the voices of the health authorities [...]. This threat is real’*. In the same broadcast, he supported the petition of the parents of pupils of Primary School No. 16 in Lublin against making the gym available for refugee assistance. He added: *‘The state cannot help refugees at the expense of its own citizens’*. In addition, he publicly read a question he addressed to the Ministry of Health (in a letter of 7 March), repeating the insinuations: *‘In connection with the messages that are reaching me, I would like to know if it is*

true that Ukrainian patients, including children, were given priority over Polish patients in medical care facilities?’

Among the comments that appeared under this video, some were antisemitic: *‘Objective and matter-of-fact as usual. It seems that Putin’s aggression will also be paid for by the Polish-speaking-memopictorial community of Polin [in Hebrew, Polin means Poland – translator’s note]. I will not even mention the words of the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the servants of the Ukrainian nation. Anecdote at the end: President Zelenski called on Judean people from all over the world for help. Two came, from Warsz Aviv’.*



WARSAW. On 28 March 2022, columnist for the far-right *‘Do Rzeczy’* weekly **Lukasz Warzecha** posted unconfirmed information on Twitter about the alleged privileges afforded to children from Ukraine. He stated, *‘I have just received a second solid signal that the kids from an orphanage who, if continuing their education, had the right to stay there after the age of 18, have been given two-weeks’ notice to leave the facility, to make room for children from Ukraine’* and *‘I won’t give further details until I receive some confirmation of this’*. This sensationalist anti-Ukrainian entry by Warzecha has been met with many voices of condemnation. Among others, Michal Janczura of Radio Tok FM wrote, *‘This is the difference between a journalist and a «professional commentator». He has heard something, but he doesn’t know what exactly. He wants to make a fuss but has no evidence. [...] I would suggest you look at the regulations before talking more nonsense’*.

WARSAW. On 1 April 2022, in an interview for the Oko.press website, Dr. Joanna Talewicz, the leader of Fundacja w Stronę Dialogu (Towards Dialogue Foundation), reported on acts of discrimination against Roma refugees from Ukraine, including children, that have occurred in various localities in Poland. According to her, the number of such incidents has increased since the outbreak of war. *‘We are seeing a birth of systemic discrimination against Ukrainian Roma refugees’*, the activist said. As an example, she mentioned a situation where a landlord kicked out a Romani family after just one day, saying that *‘Roma children are noisy’*.

WARSAW. On 9 April 2022, on tram number 33 at the Park Olszyna stop a passenger attacked two Ukrainian women – a pregnant woman accompanied by her nine-year-old son, and her mother. The man shouted that *‘all Ukrainians should die’* and used violence. *‘The aggressor [...] kicked one of the women and hit the other one in the face with his fist’*, Aleksandra Skrzyniarz, the spokeswoman for the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Warsaw, reported. As a result of the strike, the pregnant woman fell and lost consciousness. Help was refused by the emergency medical dispatcher, who did not accept the call because... the caller spoke Ukrainian. Eventually, the injured woman was taken to hospital. The District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Warsaw-Zoliborz opened an investigation *‘into the use of violence against two Ukrainian citizens because of their nationality, and the use of unlawful threats of bodily injury to them and the boy’*. Police were looking for the attacker.

CZESTOCHOWA. On 12 April 2022, a 17-year-old student of a technical school attacked two girls coming from Ukraine. *'She was walking in the company of a friend through Solidarnosc square. She approached the Ukrainian girls, aged 15, who were there, and because of their nationality she insulted them. Then she hit one of the girls in the face and grabbed the other girl's hair and pushed her, causing the victim to fall to the ground. She then kicked the girl in the head and stomach with her knee. She was then dragged away by her friend and left the scene'*, Tomasz Ozimek, spokesman for the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Czesztchowa reported. He also added, *'The following day, one of the victims noticed the perpetrator of the attack in the street and informed her aunt about it. The woman asked the schoolgirl why she had behaved inappropriately towards the girls the previous day. Instead of a response, the woman was insulted because of her nationality. Before the schoolgirl left, the victim managed to take a picture of her'*. The assailant was arrested. She was charged with using violence against a female Ukrainian citizen and insulting her in public because of her nationality. The offences were classified to be of a hooligan nature.

WARSAW. On 9 May 2022, the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** (due to hate speech this channel had been temporarily banned by YouTube and instead they broadcast on a separate YouTube channel belonging to **Marcin Rola**), the host **Piotr Szlachetowicz** and his guest Dr. **Lucyna Kulinska** (a long-time lecturer at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow, former election candidate for **Konfederacja – Confederation** party), spread conspiracy theories about Ukrainian refugees. In the show, Kulinska invoked motifs characteristic of Putinist propaganda by accusing Ukrainians, including children, of Nazi sympathies and called for their expulsion from Poland. She stated, *'Because what would I do about those parents, who have been walking around with the symbols of this Nazi Azov or with some other flags? I would deport these parents immediately and the children with them, or [send them] to an orphanage for re-education. If such small children are able to make a Nazi salute and to propagate this Nazism, then what do we need such people for? Send them away'*.

WARSAW. On 25 May 2022, a Twitter post described a xenophobic incident involving **Piotr Biedka** – a 'patostreamer' known for promoting conspiracy theories relating to COVID-19, and the owner of the YouTube channel **CHWDP.tv**, which has over 120,000 subscribers [a 'patostream' is a live broadcast on a video streaming website which includes behaviours commonly considered to be socially harmful, such as alcohol abuse or domestic violence; word formation in Polish: pathology + streaming – translator's note]. Biedka behaved aggressively towards two teenage girls from Ukraine who were collecting donations for war refugees on Krakowskie Przedmiescie Street, on behalf of one of the charities. He ridiculed them, followed them with a turned-on camera and demanded to see their identity documents. When the volunteers tried to run away, he chased them. Looking for help, the girls called the head of the charity providing aid to Ukraine. Biedka behaved aggressively towards the man, who has a Belarusian background, and made offensive comments. He compared him to a 'gangster' and threatened to use 'self-protection weapons' that he had 'in his bag'. One of the volunteers said 'goodbye' to him and Biedka shouted, *'But why goodbye? You are at my place and not the other way round. Why tell me that I have to do a «goodbye»? You do the goodbye! [...] I am on my land!'*. Biedka himself uploaded a recording documenting his harassment of the Ukrainian volunteers on the internet.

KATOWICE. On 9 June 2022, at the Brynow-Centrum Przesiadkowe bus stop an unidentified man attacked a teenage boy from Ukraine. He threatened him and hurled ethnic slurs at him. When the boy boarded the no. 9 bus, the attacker followed him, continued to humiliate him, and shouted that the Ukrainian should *'go back to where he came from, that he was a freeloader supported by him, a Polish tax-payer'*. A female passenger stood up for the teenager. The man behaved aggressively, threatening her that if she *'wouldn't let go'*, he would rape or kill her. He also threatened to use a knife on her. Protecting the boy, the woman got off with him at the Ochojec Sadowa stop. The attacker followed them. He only left when the woman said she would call the police. She notified the Municipal Police Headquarters in Katowice about the attack. The officers detained a man who was charged with threatening and insulting based on nationality. In a press release about the incident the police stressed, *'thanks to the woman's reaction, the boy had escaped being physically harmed by the aggressor'*.

WARSAW. On 14 June 2022, former Catholic priest and extreme-right activist **Jacek Miedlar** spoke on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** and criticised in a curious and aggressive way the performance of children from the Ukrainian folk group, who sang the Ukrainian folk song *'Red Kalina'* on 7 June at the Shrine of Our Lady of Jasna Gora. Their performance was meant to express gratitude to Poles for their help to Ukrainians. Miedlar stated, *'it was as if a choir of **Hitlerjugend** or Wehrmacht sang one of **Adolf Hitler's** favourite songs in his honour'*.

SOSNOWIEC. On 16 July 2022, on Jagiellonska Street an unidentified female attacked a Ukrainian woman who was waiting at a bus stop with her three-year-old daughter. The aggressor heard that she was talking on the phone in Ukrainian and became abusive towards her, *'You are a Ukrainian sl*t, you live here on my account', 'F*ck off to Ukraine' and 'F*ck off from Poland'*. Her aggression grew and grew, she did not pay attention to the child's crying and she hit the mother several times with her fist on the head. When the victim shouted that she would call the police, the attacker ran away. The police have tried to trace her. *'We have no doubt that this was a hate crime. The aggressor attacked the woman because she was Ukrainian'*, said Deputy Commander Sonia Kepper, the spokeswoman for the Sosnowiec police, in a press release. In a statement to the Public Prosecutor's Office the injured Ukrainian woman explained, *'I am still in shock [because of the beating], I had run away from the war to feel safe here with my daughter. Now I don't even feel safe on the street next to the house I live in'*. The police have not informed the public whether the attacker has been apprehended.

PINCZOW. On 3 August 2022, near a park, a 30-year-old assailant hurled racist insults at a 16-year-old city resident because of his skin colour, and also physically abused him. When a friend who was accompanying the teenager stood up for the victim, the perpetrator hit him as well. The police were called to the scene. The attacker was arrested. The man was charged with bodily harm and insulting a 16-year-old on racist grounds, as well as bodily harm to another victim. By the court's order, he was placed in pre-trial detention for one month.

WARSAW. On 3 August 2022, on the far-right YouTube channel **wRealu24** the host **Krzysztof Lech Luksza** was indignant about a decision taken by one of the parishes in Radom, which in gesture of solidarity with the youngest refugees decided to charge them less for a summer camp. The host of wRealu24 showed an announcement about the summer camp and incited xenophobic sentiments: *'Here we have selected Ukrainian children: [the charge is] 300 PLN, Polish children*

800 PLN. How come? What is this discrimination? What is it supposed to be? Discrimination of Polish children in Poland? Unless we are not Poland anymore, in the context of the previous infographics as well. Maybe we are something... well we all know the terms, Ukrpol [a conspiracy theory according to which Ukrainians will take over Poland – translator's note] and so on'.

Editor's note: In 2023, Krzysztof Luksza cut ties with the far right. Two articles reflecting on and critically reassessing that period of his life were published in the 'NEVER AGAIN' e-zine.

WARSAW. On 13 August 2022, commentator of state-owned television channel **TVP Info Anna Derewienko** published a dehumanising post on Twitter about children born through in vitro methods. She stated, *'With in-vitro children it's like with dogs from a kennel. Instead of buying those from kennels and expanding kennels, we should focus on dogs already born'*. Her statement was met with much condemnation. Derewienko has not removed her comment.

WARSAW. On 19 August 2022, the far-right channel **wRealu24** broadcast (on Facebook) a programme in which the host **Marcin Rola** and his interlocutor **Wojciech Sumlinski** (co-author of books negating the historical truth about the anti-Jewish pogrom in Jedwabne in 1941) commented in a jeering way on the information about a help fund for Ukrainian children whose parents were killed in the war as well as for women who were freed from Russian captivity. (As the patron of the fund, created on 17 August 2022, the blessed Fr. Klemens Szeptycki was chosen; born 1869, died 1951, a Polish-Ukrainian clergyman of the Greek Catholic Church. In 1995 he was posthumously awarded the title of the Righteous Among the Nations. The fund is operated by Fundacja Solidarnosci Miedzynarodowej – Solidarity Fund PL, which supports civil society development, local democracy, and independent media in Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus. Referring to the declared sums of support Sumlinski stated, *'Why 10 thousand [PLN]? Why not 100 thousand? Perhaps we should go further [...], maybe a hundred to every Ukrainian lady who went through a trauma'*. He was seconded by Rola, *'Can we beat trauma by ten zeros, if I can use that expression? This is completely pathological'*.

WARSAW. Towards the end of August 2022, in one of the kindergartens in the Stare Bielany area two women employed there voiced racist comments in connection with the admission into the institution of a boy coming from a mixed Polish-African family. Describing the circumstances of this case the mother of the child said that she had received a phone call from the kindergarten, but she did not pick up in time. Because she had her voice mail machine switched on, a conversation was accidentally recorded between two employees who called and did not end the connection. One of them made fun of the African-sounding surname of the child which they could not pronounce, and both used insults about the child's father. One of them said, *'So maybe he doesn't f*cking speak Polish?'* to which the other one responded, *'Take it easy, if he lives in Poland, he must learn. F*ck it, in France he had to speak French immediately'*. The Director of the kindergarten and the School Board were notified about the behaviour of both employees. The spokeswoman for the Bielany district Magdalena Borek stated in a press release, *'We apologise for the reprehensible behaviour of those employees of the kindergarten. As the authority responsible for the educational institution, we firmly condemn any and all manifestations of racism, whether motivated by culture, race or religion, and instead we expect empathy and sensitivity from employees of the kindergarten. For that reason, the two employees of the kindergarten bore the consequences of their behaviour. On 22 September, the Director of the kindergarten handed in her resignation'*.

RZESZOW. On 1 September 2022, on a Facebook profile 'Igor Isajev [journalist] – a Ukrainian in Poland', under a post concerning a bombing of a school in Ukraine by Russian troops, one of the residents of Rzeszow **Wojciech N.** posted a comment in which he expressed appreciation of this crime and incited contempt and hostility towards Ukrainians, *'They taught f*ck all in those schools anyway, well maybe only [the phrase] «50 quid for a BJ», to prepare them for work they'd be doing their whole life'*. An internet user notified the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Rzeszow of the post. On 12 September, the Public Prosecutor's Office refused to open an investigation into incitement to hatred on the grounds of national differences and insulting a group of people of Ukrainian nationality. The person who took action against the hateful post provided information on the case to the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association.

WARSAW. On 2 September 2022, on Rozlucka Street in the Praga-South district, two aggressive men and a woman who accompanied them verbally attacked a group of young Ukrainians with vulgar xenophobic insults. They did not let them use a playing field on which Ukrainians regularly play football with Poles and Belarusians. The assailants shouted, *'This is a Polish bench! Get the f*ck out of here! There are no Ukrainian benches here!'* *'Where's your Ukraine? Somewhere in Kiev, so get the f*ck out of here!'* *'You're in Poland, you have to do what we f*cking want, and not the other way'*, and *'Get the f*ck out of Poland!'* The woman uttered threats towards the young Ukrainians, *'You want to have your faces smashed?'* When one of them was pushed by a Pole, her aggression reached a higher pitch: *'When I give you f*cking hell, you'll know why I am beating you up! Get out!'*. The incident was reported to the police. The assailants were arrested and charged with *'uttering unlawful threats against a group of people or single persons, based on their nationality'*.

WROCLAW. On 6 December 2022, members of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (NOP, National Rebirth of Poland, extreme-right party)** took part in a meeting with a group of young children, held under the slogan 'Nationalist Santa Claus 2022'. One activist, dressed as Santa Claus, wore an armband with the symbol of so-called Falanga, used in the interwar period by Polish fascist organisations. Another NOP man wore a T-shirt bearing two rifles, as well as a neo-Nazi slogan (the so-called 'fourteen words'): *'We must secure the existence of our people and a future for white children'*. This motto was coined by **David Lane**, the leader of the American racist terrorist group **The Order**, inspired by an excerpt from **Adolf Hitler's 'Mein Kampf'**. In addition, the T-shirt bore the so-called 'rune of life' – sign used by **SS** units, and in contemporary settings it is a symbol of hatred used by racist organisations in many countries. Photos from the meeting were published on the organisation's website.



YEAR 2023

LUBLIN. On 7 January 2023, at a bus stop on Krolewska Street, two men assaulted a Ukrainian woman, her 13-year-old son and her adult pregnant daughter. When the thugs heard that the family was talking in Ukrainian, they shouted insults, *'Ukrainian wh*res', 'F*ck Ukrainians'* and *'Get the hell out of Poland'*. When the boy tried to call the police, they pushed him to the ground and hit his head with fists. They also roughed up the expectant mother, although she cried that she is pregnant. The mother of the siblings related the incident, *'I was very scared for her. I shouted to her to run. She has bruises on her body, but luckily the baby is safe. It is sad that none of the people who were nearby reacted'*. Police were called to the scene. They arrested two men, residents of Lublin, 31-year-old **Pawel K.** and 26-year-old **Albert Sz.** The spokesman for the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Lublin Agnieszka Kepka informed, *'Pawel K. was charged with publicly insulting Ukrainian nationals by addressing them with words commonly regarded as vulgar and derogatory, of known content, because of their national identity. [...] Another charge concerns acting jointly and in concert with the second culprit, also because of the victims' nationality. In other words, committing violence by beating Ukrainian nationals'*. The other man, Albert Sz., was also suspected of directing death threats at the Ukrainian woman and her children.

The woman came to Poland with her 13-year-old son in March of 2022, fleeing from the war. They settled in Lublin where her daughter had been a student for a few years already.

KRAKOW. On 18 January 2023, the **Polonia Christiana (Pch24.pl)** website run by **Stowarzyszenie Kultury Chrzescijanskiej im. ks. Piotra Skargi** [1] published an article entitled 'Inclusive education – a destructive step back from special schooling and levelling down' by **Hanna Dobrowolska**. The author disapproved of the concept of inclusive education, i.e., education that considers different needs of pupils, and argued against integrating *'normal children'* and *'pupils with all types of disfunctions, and those not adjusted to society'*. Expressions such as *'destructive inclusion', 'the steamroller of inclusion',* and sneers at non-discriminatory language also appeared in the article. Moreover, Dobrowolska quoted a letter from *'a teacher from northern Mazovia region'* who demanded answers to the question *'By what right is the Polish taxpayer's money being wasted?'* on high school education for *'mentally handicapped students'* (elsewhere she added, *'I will write like that instead of a «pupil with mental handicap»'*). Disdainful comments towards people with disabilities appeared under the article, e.g.: *'[My son] has a person with a disability certificate in his class, he was supposed to learn empathy, he has developed neurosis [...] he is disgusted by [their] appearance and behaviour'*.

[1] **Father Piotr Skarga Association for Christian Culture:** a fundamentalist organisation known for its anti-LGBT statements.

WARSAW. On 3 February 2023, an article entitled 'Demography in Poland: Kosher «democracy» is the death of the nation' was published on the **Nacjonalista.pl** website, associated with the neo-fascist party **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski (National Rebirth of Poland)**. The piece contained antisemitic and xenophobic conspiracy theories, also targeting children, including the following statements, *'Kosher «democracy», i.e. a system established in the West after 1945, and in Poland after 1989 [...]. The power belongs to mafia lodges, and various lobbies, and this results in subordination to foreign centres. The regime has achieved a remarkable «success» in depopulation. [...] Out of 305,000 children born here, 15,000 are foreigners (a 50% increase), and*

so the statistics for Poles are even worse. A multicultural Polin is now on the horizon'. The article made vague accusations against Jews, alleging that they were aiming to lower Poland's birth rate while simultaneously driving up the number of births among migrants. At the end of this phantasmagorical vision, there was a reference to '*Polin*' (in Hebrew the word means Poland), i.e. an antisemitic vision of a Poland controlled by Jews.

WARSAW. On 27 March 2023, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed of harassment suffered for several months by a boy of Ukrainian origin from another boy, a resident of Brodno. The mother reported that her son had been told at the playground that '*Ukrainians have no right to use the swings*' and that the swings were '*only for Polish children*'. She tried to speak to the aggressive boy's mother about the incidents but was met with a xenophobic response. The Polish woman shouted that they should '*go back to Ukraine*' and also threatened to '*make [their] life here unbearable*'. The incidents were reported to the police in August 2022. In a message received by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the mother of the harassed boy reported that on 26 March 2023 a similar situation occurred again. '*The Polish child was aggressive and shouted that Ukrainians should not be here using swings, that we are stupid and that we should go back to Ukraine*'. When she tried to intervene, the mother of the aggressive boy shouted to her again that they should go back to Ukraine. The aggrieved woman went with the child to the police station on Chodecka Street, '*where the officer on duty refused to submit a new report, saying that the case had been already opened and he would not submit a new one*'.

KŁODZKO. On 11 May 2023, on the air of Radio Tok FM, Izabela Hnidziuk-Machnica, Managing Director of the AleKlasa Foundation, related that employees of the Kłodzko Fortress, a defensive fortification dating back to the turn of the 18th century, discriminated against one of the visitors, a girl who was not allowed into the facility due to her being Autistic. The employees referred to the rules and regulations, which state that when visiting the underground part of the facility, '*persons with Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Asperger syndrome are not allowed in the underground corridors*'. Hnidziuk-Machnica said, '*A provision in such form is plain discrimination due to disability. The truth is, the rules should clearly outline what kind of sensory and other kinds of experiences we can be exposed to downstairs, that it can be dark, narrow, etc. [...] Then, each person can judge if it is OK with them, and no diagnosis should matter here*'. She added, '*What was painful the most was how the girl took it: she broke into tears when she was told that she cannot enter «because she has the Asperger's»*'. On 22 May, Daniel Jakubowski, Director of the Kłodzko Fortress, held a press conference at which he said that the '*unfortunate provision*' was removed from the rules and regulations, and a detailed description of the route and conditions in underground corridors was added.

WARSAW. On the evening of 17 June 2023, an unidentified man attacked a group of teenagers on a tram. They were participants of the Equality Parade (Pride) and were carrying rainbow flags (symbol of the LGBT community). The attacker, dressed in a sweatshirt with Legia Warszawa (football club) emblems, hurled insults and spat at them. A 15-year-old boy stood up to defend the young people. '*They looked even younger than me. I addressed him [the aggressive passenger]. Then he noticed that I also had a rainbow hairband, and so he directed his anger at me. He called me a «f*cking fa*got» and said that «we put c*cks into our *sses»*', he reported. At the bus stop on Marszałkowska Street, the attacker pushed the boy out of the tram. Luckily, he was not harmed. Together with the tram driver, he managed to call police officers. The injured

boy reported, *'The policeman told the man to apologise to me and shake my hand in agreement. I refused to shake his hand. I said I wanted him to suffer the consequences. [The officer] accused me of participating in the Equality Parade, but tolerating only those who agree with me [...]. I heard from the police officer that I was only concerned with being in the limelight. He said he did not see any assault against me had taken place here'.*

On 19 June, the boy filed a complaint at the Warsaw Police Headquarters about the officer's behaviour. He also sent a letter to the Ombudsman Marcin Wiacek, who on 30 June asked the Metropolitan Police Chief for an explanation of the case.

For several years, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association has been drawing attention to xenophobic and homophobic assaults occurring on public transport. In 2019, during a meeting with representatives of the Warsaw City Hall and the Public Transport Authority, the Association proposed free training sessions on how to respond to incidents motivated by hatred. Ultimately, this initiative was not taken up by the officials.

RACIBORZ. On 15 August 2023, on Katowicka Street, a dark-skinned teenager was insulted and threatened by a passer-by near a kebab shop. The man shouted at him, *'You f*cking darkie, get the f*ck out of here, I'll f*ck you up'*. In a report received by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the boy stated, *'I have dealt with similar attacks in the past. [...] I have a tawny complexion as my father is from Iraq'*.

SZCZECIN. On 20 August 2023, **Dariusz Matecki**, a **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (Law and Justice)** MP candidate in the Szczecin constituency shared a video on Twitter showing three boys communicating in German, but without any information about where, when and under what circumstances it was recorded. He then added a bizarre, racist comment to the post, *'The future of indigenous Europeans on their own continent?'* The video showed a half-minute altercation between a white boy and a black boy, ending with the latter striking the former. Nothing is known about what happened or how the situation came about.

There were many racist comments made under Matecki's entry, inciting violence, including against the children visible in the video:

- *'That f*cking ch*mp that attacked that boy should be dead by now'.*
- *'I would beat the crap out of these idiots so that their darkie mother wouldn't recognise them'.*
- *'aggressive monkeys must be shot with live ammunition'.*
- *'That's why I say aim fire at these sons of b*tches and then throw them into a ditch!!!! F*cking darkies!!!!'*
- *'F*cking afro b*stard! Who let this garbage in here anyway? Those Brussels wh*res should be hanged'.*
- *'For disposal. Immediately'.*
- *'Monkeys' place is in the zoo or in africa, what does the [European] union not understand? If I were that white boy's father, I would tear those monkeys to pieces'.*
- *'We pray that Hitler returns from Argentina'.*
- *'Why don't they drown them when they arrive by sea??? There would be peace. I'd break the darkie's bones'.*
- *'Even when they are in the civilised world, savages remain savages'.*

The comments also included some anti-Ukrainian content, for example:

- *'This is how Ukry [1] in Poland will behave towards native Poles'.*
- *'In Poland, our kids will get this shit from little Ukry [2]'.*

[1] [2] Polish ethnic slur against Ukrainians.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 31 August 2023, at a city football pitch in Komorowice, a group of teenagers brutally beat up two brothers, refugees evacuated with their parents from Afghanistan. When the boys and several other children were playing football, the aggressors accosted them and took away their ball. When the 11-year-old Afghan boy demanded it back, he was severely beaten: the attackers knocked out his tooth and gave him a black eye. They also hit his 7-year-old brother. No other children were hurt. The attacked boys were transported to the Paediatric Hospital in Bielsko-Biala. Thanks to the support of a friendly Polish family, the Afghans reported the assault to the police. It was not made public what the results of the investigation were.

After the fall of Kabul in August 2021, 1,101 people were evacuated to Poland, mostly employees of international organisations, community activists, and people working with the Polish military. Several families from Afghanistan have settled in Bielsko-Biala.

WARSAW. On 10 October 2023, appearing on the ‘*Guest of Radio Zet*’ show hosted by Bogdan Rymanowski, **Krzysztof Bosak**, **Konfederacja** (**Confederation**, far-right party) Member of Parliament and its parliamentary candidate in the Bialystok constituency, promoted a xenophobic narrative aimed against refugees from war-torn Ukraine. He concentrated on alleged threats posed by Ukrainian children, ‘*More than one child of foreign nationality in a group or a school class already creates a problem and I hear that in some schools this has become a fact, that it’s beginning to be like close to half, or even majority of foreign children in some classes...*’ When Rymanowski asked him to name at least one such school, Bosak was unable to do so. He also protested against store signs and commercials in Ukrainian language, as well as the presence of Ukrainian language in institutions servicing the refugees.

Under the interview posted on YouTube, anti-Ukrainian comments were made, for example:

- ‘*We do not need any savages neither from far-off wild tribes nor from UPA-carrion [1] !!!!!*’
- ‘*I would be happy to see inscriptions in the language of our enemies, the Ukrainians, disappear from elementary schools, swimming pools, and public offices!!!!*’
- ‘*Poland for Poles*’.

[1] **UPA** is the acronym for the **Ukrainian Insurgent Army**, active during World War II and responsible for the Volhynian massacre of Poles in the 1940s.

KOLBUSZOWA DOLNA On 17 October 2023, an advertisement for a T-shirt featuring a graphic image inciting violence against Ukrainian refugee children was published on an Instagram profile ‘*kibicowski_zyciem_*’ (The Football Fan’s Life).

The picture on the T-shirt depicts an adult man lifting a small boy with one hand. The boy is wearing yellow-and-blue clothing, the colours of Ukraine. The man is raising his clenched fist to hit the child. Both figures are depicted against the background of the Polish colours, accompanied by the slogan ‘*Enough of hospitality*’ [1]. The post on the Instagram profile showed a photograph of a man wearing the T-shirt, accompanied by the text ‘*The «‘Enough of hospitality» T-shirts already reached their buyers. Regards !!*’

The post received 346 likes. The profile, which has more than 17,000 followers, is associated with the Zjednoczeni-Kibice Z-K (United Football Fans) group and the community of Miedzyszkolny Uczniowski Klub Sportowy Sokol (Inter-School Youth Sports Club Sokol) in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.

It was not until the summer of 2026, following a wave of publicized attacks against refugees from Ukraine, that the sale of the T-shirt with content inciting violence attracted public attention. Prof. Andrzej Szeptycki, Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education and lecturer at the University of Warsaw, shared a photo of the T-shirt on Twitter/X with the comment, *'Every child boxer can now buy himself a T-shirt and proudly attack underage refugees on buses and elsewhere [three vomiting-face emojis]'* (20 August).

Paulina Piechna-Wieckiewicz, Deputy Minister of National Education, published a post featuring an image of the T-shirt with the caption *'You wear a T-shirt on which a strong man is hitting a child, A CHILD... who can wear something like this, who can think something like this'* (20 August). Apart from expressions of disapproval, government representatives did not announce any action regarding this matter.

Nowiny Wschodnie (Eastern News) portal also shared a photo of the T-shirt with the described image on Facebook, stating, *'Further posts promoting T-shirts with aggressive and propaganda slogans targeting Ukrainians are appearing on the Polish internet [...] together with lawyers, we are preparing documentation concerning this type of content and we intend to pass the information collected to the relevant authorities, including the Polish Internal Security Agency, for assessment'* (18 August).



PIEKOSZOW. On 21 October 2023, one of the residents of the town located in Kielce county, 36-year-old **Szczepan B.**, brutally beat a twelve-year-old boy from Ukraine. When the man noticed two boys, Ukrainian refugees, who were passing near him, he started shouting aggressively at them. The teenagers were scared, so they separated, and then the attacker followed one of them. *'While following the boy, he shouted and insulted him for being Ukrainian. He cursed and ordered him to leave Poland and return to Ukraine. He also insulted the boy's mother. While running away, the twelve-year-old managed to take a photo of the man with his phone. At some point, Szczepan B. caught up with the boy and blocked his path'*, Beata Zielinska-Janaszek, head of the Kielce-Wschod District Public Prosecutor's Office reported. She described the brutal attack, *'The perpetrator insulted but also beat, punched, kicked the boy's head and entire body with his legs, causing the child to lose consciousness, as well as injuries in the form of, among others, bloody runs, abrasions, and injuries to two teeth'*. The police arrested the perpetrator. The Public Prosecutor's Office filed an indictment with the court in which Szczepan B. was charged with an unprovoked hooligan act, insulting with words generally considered offensive, and using physical violence against a minor Ukrainian citizen because of his nationality. Moreover, the man was to be held responsible for insulting police officers during their intervention.

PISARZOWICE. On 20 November 2023, in one of the schools in this town located in Bielsko county, an 11-year-old pupil from Ukraine was beaten by three 13-year-old pupils from the same

school. The boy was taken to hospital, but fortunately he was not seriously injured and after examination he was discharged home. Inspector Ilona Michalczyk from the Municipal Police Headquarters in Bielsko-Biala informed that three juvenile perpetrators would appear before the family court for violating the physical integrity of the 11-year-old from Ukraine. The school management issued a statement, *'Due to a dangerous incident which took place during classes organised by LKS Pionier [1], the school decided to provide pedagogical and psychological assistance. Pupils of grades 5 to 8 will be offered meetings with a psychologist on the topic of peer violence. The psychologist will also take actions jointly with teachers to minimise the effects of the incident'*.

[1] Local football club that was invited to lead some additional classes that day.

YEAR 2024

SZCZECIN. On 28 January 2024, on Kazimierska street 'unknown perpetrators' threw a firecracker onto the balcony of an apartment where a Vietnamese family with children lived. Luckily, nobody got hurt. In her statement for the local media, Dominika Jackowski, Szczecin city councillor and friend of the victims, reported, *'We heard a bang on the estate, then we got a call from our neighbours. The family comes from Vietnam, they have different skin colour and therefore may attract attention'*. The councillor also reported that the attacks on the Vietnamese had been going on for months, *'It all started with throwing eggs at the balcony. Later, in December [2023] the father of the family was attacked in front of McDonald's and the police were called this time. There is no doubt that the attackers [...] might be the same'*. Jackowski expressed her solidarity with the victims, *'This is a trauma for the entire family, and the children fear for their safety. We do not consent to such behaviour. I am ashamed of those who make our neighbours' life unbearable. I thought we lived in a tolerant and open-minded city'*.

WARSAW. On 12 April 2024, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association notified the Ombudsman for Children Rights Monika Horna-Cieslak about a podcast uploaded on Spotify in which a user nicknamed **Antykoucz (Anti-coach)** urged children to commit suicide. The Antykoucz user has accounts on several other social networking sites (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok) where he posted content inciting hatred and violence against minorities. In the podcast, he ranted, *'There are many ways to commit suicide. [...] This often needs to be planned. And that's what this f*cking podcast is for. [...] Where can you start? From self-harm. We have all kinds of vein cuts. [...] Listen, dear children, dear listeners, if you cut your wrists, it's not like in the movies [...]. You take a f*cking razor blade, or maybe a very sharp knife, just not the blunt one from Ikea, and cut it lengthwise, pull it from the f*cking wrist to the elbow. [...] Put your cut arm in warm water, this will surely make you go. Warm water will speed up the spitting out of blood. [...] You fall asleep peacefully, very cool'*. The man also wove xenophobic threads into his message and identified all migrants with terrorists: *'And now for suicide attacks. Our German brothers know something well about it. They invited various people who like to throw great, bombastic parties'*. In the Antykoucz broadcast, he also appealed, *'If you want f*cking more, give me info. We will try to design your suicide in a way that people who see it will say: Wow! This person left in style'*. The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association has reported the 'How to Commit Suicide 1.0' podcast to Spotify. Even though the video was in violation of Spotify Content Policy (*'promoting, glorifying or*

inciting suicide and self-harm' is considered dangerous), it was not removed and the report went unanswered.

WARSAW. On 26 April 2024, **Krzysztof 'Ator' Wozniak** [1] uploaded a video entitled 'Islamisation of Europe! In Germany the children in school convert into Islam OUT OF FEAR!' on his '**wideoprezentacje**' ('**videopresentations**') YouTube channel. During the programme he quoted an alleged 'Daily Mail' article and added his own comments to it. Talking about the 'Islamisation of Europe', he stated, *'In the context of all information appearing on the Western media, and also on Polish media, the topic should probably be considered outdated, and this Islamisation something that simply has been accomplished'*. Next, he painted a somewhat bizarre vision of life in Germany, *'Now they are becoming a religious country, but an Islamic one, not because the young school-age Germans want to convert to Islam [...] but because they are afraid'*, and *'There is imposition of this foreign culture on young Germans, in a few years it will start in Poland too'*. Seemingly addressing Germans, he portrayed Muslims as a civilisational threat, *'You have let in millions of people who hate you and want to shape your culture in accordance with their own religion'*. During the programme Wozniak also made statements with anti-Ukrainian overtones, *'Some time ago children in Polish schools sang «Red Kalyna» [2], and when some part of Poles felt outrage [...], these people were told that they were intolerant and that they were Putin's agents. We are threatened not only by Islamisation [3]. But by Islamisation too'*. Wozniak's programme was viewed over 43,500 times within a month and his YouTube channel has been subscribed by over 679,000 users.

A lot of anti-Muslim and anti-Ukrainian comments were made under this video, including those inciting violence. Examples: *'Stop the mosques!!! Stop Islam!'* *'STOP the Islamisation of Poland'*, *'Stop the Islamisation of Europe and Poland!!!'* *'And I am against Islam, out of Poland. Let them go to Dubai'*, *'Down with Islam in Poland'*, *'The Islamisation of Europe continues... they are coming for us and for our children ... and they will not stop ... they can only be stopped by force...'* *'Western Europe is in for Islamisation out of fear and we will be Ukrainised by force: they are already announcing the teaching of kids in our schools according to Kyiv's programme...'* *'The one who killed children on the Utoja island talked about it – he paid a very high price to communicate it!'* *'Germans will again relight the furnaces, it's probably just a matter of time'*, **'Hitler'** *is turning in his grave'*.

[1] Unsuccessful far-right **KORWiN** party candidate in the Polish general election of 2015.

[2] In the first weeks of the war, the Ukrainian folk song 'Red Kalyna' was performed by many artists around the world to showcase support for the attacked country, it was also sung as a sign of solidarity with Ukraine in Poland.

[3] The so-called 'Ukrainisation' was implied this way too – this term is used as a conspiracy vision of Poland being taken over by Ukrainians.

WARSAW. On 15 May 2024, **Krzysztof 'Ator' Wozniak** [1] once again uploaded a video with Islamophobic overtones on his '**wideoprezentacje**' ('**videopresentations**') YouTube channel. He quoted various media and added his own commentary. He said, among other things: *'In German schools, European kids convert to Islam out of fear'*, because *'they are afraid of prosecution, [...] they are afraid of physical violence from the Muslim youth'*. Within seven days, Wozniak's video garnered more than 61 thousand views, while his channel had some 679,000 subscriptions (as of May 2024). Comments under the video were full of hate speech and conspiracy theories, such as: *'Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland!!!!'* *'we ourselves will*

show them that there will be no Islamisation of Poland’, ‘This is Poland, not Po[l]in! [2]. No Muslims No Jews No Ukrainisation!!!’ ‘Germans could use another guy with the moustache’.

[1] Vlogger and unsuccessful far-right **KORWiN** party candidate in the Polish general election of 2015.

[2] The word means ‘Poland’ in Hebrew. For the far right it has become synonymous with the alleged rule of Jews over Poland.

WARSAW. On 7 June 2024, **Grzegorz Placzek, Konfederacja** (Confederation party) Member of Parliament [1] and chair of the parliamentary club of Konfederacja, posted a video on TikTok in which he spread false information about the alleged privileging of Ukrainian children in access to haemophilia treatment. He argued, *‘Why do Ukrainian children suffering from a severe, sadly common form of haemophilia A, who came to Poland and until now were treated with a long-acting subcutaneous factor prophylaxis, have their treatment continued in Poland with that factor, while Polish children, little citizens of the Republic of Poland, cannot choose this most modern method of treatment, but are treated with an intravenous drug? Why do Polish parents have to needle their tiny children intravenously several times a week, while children who arrived in Poland receive a completely different health care? Of course, at the expense of the Polish taxpayer’.*



Before 1 July 2024 the subcutaneously administered drug emicizumab had not been reimbursed; it was available only in exceptional cases (e.g., when intravenous treatment proved ineffective, caused severe complications, or other contraindications appeared). Thus, contrary to Placzek’s claims, the method of treating children with haemophilia in Poland was decided by doctors based on the patients’ health status, not on nationality criteria.

Under this TikTok post many anti-Ukrainian comments were made, including calls to violence, for example:

- *‘It’s very sad what they’re doing to us. But we will rise and chase away those beasts’*
- *‘When blood is shed, maybe some people will finally wake up’*
- *‘I also don’t get why we’ve allowed this for so long — where are the real men, the real POLES?’*
- *‘We, Poles, are becoming second-class people in our own country’*

[1] Konfederacja (Confederation) party is a far-right bloc consisting of two groups: **Nowa Nadzieja** (New Hope, radical right) and **Ruch Narodowy** (National Movement, ethnonationalist). Placzek is a member of New Hope.

WARSAW. On 3 August 2024, ‘unknown perpetrators’ vandalised wreaths honouring the victims of Nazism – killed during the Warsaw Uprising (1944). They were placed by Polonia Warszawa (football club) fans at sites commemorating the uprising, including the Monument to the Little Insurgent, a statue in commemoration of the child soldiers who



fought and died during the uprising, on Podwale Street. This profanation has been widely attributed to hooligans of the other major football club that exists in Warsaw (Legia), among whom far-right views are not uncommon. One of them commented on the incident on the X platform: *'Polonia fans are animals. And w*ores and fa*gots'*.

SZCZECIN. On 24 August 2024, near a grocery store on Pocztowa Street, a 42-year-old man, **Tomasz A.**, attacked a family from Ukraine. When he heard a conversation in Ukrainian between a father and his young daughter, he told the man to *'teach the child to speak Polish'*. When Tomasz A. was told in response that the girl spoke Polish very well, he punched the man twice in the face. He also punched the man's wife in the face when she tried to pull the attacker away from her husband. The police intervened.

The Szczecin – Prawobrzeże District Prosecutor's Office charged Tomasz A. with 'using violence against a married couple of Ukrainian nationality because of their national affiliation'. The defendant did not plead guilty and refused to give explanations. In January 2025, the indictment against him was referred to the Regional Court in Szczecin. The verdict was delivered on 28 April 2025. Tomasz A. did not appear for the reading of the judgment. He was sentenced to one year and two months of imprisonment. In the oral justification of the ruling, Judge Grazyna Tucholska stated: *'The defendant himself initiated this scene solely because he did not like that someone in Poland was speaking a foreign language'*.

SZCZECIN. On the night of 21/22 September 2024, in the Turzyn housing estate, 'unknown perpetrators' destroyed a mosaic placed on a wall, which promoted good relations between the Polish and Ukrainian communities.

The mosaic was created by the Oswajanie Miasta Association and the YOUkraine Foundation. On 21 September, it was officially unveiled in presence of the local residents on Sciegiennego Street, near the Malenka Kraina kindergarten, which is attended by children with war and refugee experience. It featured the inscription: *'Hello neighbours'* in Polish and Ukrainian.



Just a few hours after the ceremony, someone painted over the words in Ukrainian and added vulgar slogans. The residents of the housing estate reacted to this xenophobic vandalism by cleaning the mosaic themselves on the same day. Irina Lechowicz, head of the YOUkraine Foundation, told the media that the organisation had received threats related to the installation of the mosaic. She reported, *'Our initiative was met with a positive response from the neighbours. The hate and unpleasant comments appeared only when a larger number of residents found out about the idea, and we saw that there were people who wanted to destroy our work'*.

YEAR 2025

LUBLIN. On 17 January 2025, the local press reported offensive comments about minorities made by **Katarzyna Kasprzycka**, teacher at Secondary School No. 9. One of the parents reported, *'The teacher made progressively harsh comments. [...] Moreover, there were antisemitic, homophobic, and racist remarks. During class, she claimed that Jews deserved the Holocaust because they crucified Christ, and that the SS were killing because they were atheists. Because if they had believed, they would not have committed such cruel crimes. She suggested that boys with long hair were homosexual, in the presence of boys with long hair'*. According to *'Gazeta Wyborcza'* (national daily), in mid-February 2024 parents filed a complaint with the head teacher, Radosław Borzecki, regarding the teacher's behaviour. They described, among other things, the harassment of one pupil, *'who, because of her name indicating her Muslim origin, was not called by her name, but by her register number'*. The parents also reported Kasprzycka's behaviour to the Education Office in Lublin, which conducted an investigation. The case was referred to the teachers' disciplinary ombudsman. He requested that the teacher receive a reprimand and a warning for, among other things, *'making comments on religious and ideological issues, undermining the students' psychological safety'*. In November 2024, Teachers' Disciplinary Committee of the Lublin Voivodeship Office dismissed the charges against Kasprzycka. One of the parents summed it up bitterly, *'In the end, neither the head teacher nor the Education Office did anything to help our children. What is more, at no stage of the proceedings did the headteacher explicitly state that such behaviour had not taken place'*. Following articles about Kasprzycka's behaviour published in January 2025, the Lublin-Południe District Public Prosecutor's Office decided to conduct an investigation. In June 2025, the proceedings were dismissed due to *'no evidence of a prohibited act'*.

WARSAW. On 6 February 2025, **Slawomir Mentzen**, **Konfederacja** (Confederation party) Member of Parliament and candidate for president of Poland [1], posted an exceptionally offensive video on his YouTube channel, entirely devoted to spreading xenophobic slander against migrants. He went on to falsely accuse children of migrant origin of lowering educational standards, *'On top of that, educational results in Germany are falling. [...] 26 percent of children in German schools are migrant children. [...] Poland is inhabited mainly by Poles, which is why education is better in Poland than in Germany'*.

Mentzen's video, entitled 'Secure borders, safe streets!' reached over 268,000 views in three weeks. Many xenophobic and racist comments were made under the YouTube video, including some inciting violence, for example:

- 'Poland for Poles'
- 'There was no need for a fence at the border, just enough ammunition....'
- 'Ukrainians back to the East'
- 'Secure borders. Safe streets. Fully loaded fire extinguishers [2]'

[1] Konfederacja (Confederation) party is a far-right block consisting of two groups: **Nowa Nadzieja** (New Hope, radical right) and **Ruch Narodowy** (National Movement, ethnonationalist). Mentzen is the leader of Nowa Nadzieja.

[2] Reference to the destruction of a Jewish candlestick in the Polish Parliament in 2023 by **Grzegorz Braun**, a then Konfederacja MP.

LESZNO. On 24 February 2025, in the Market Square, several men affiliated with an informal far-right group called **Patrol Obywatelski Leszno (Leszno Citizens' Patrol)** disrupted a ceremony organised to mark the third anniversary of Putin's aggression against Ukraine. During speeches by, among others, the deputy mayor of Leszno – who expressed his support and solidarity with Ukrainians – the militants chanted slogans such as *'Poland for Poles'* and *'Take your crap and f*ck off'*. They continued shouting aggressive slogans even when Ukrainian children carrying white and red flags were performing on stage. Police officers separated the demonstrators from the participants of the ceremony. Following the incident, Leszno dla Ukrainy (Leszno for Ukraine Foundation) issued a statement, *'It was an event full of emotion and solidarity, attended by both Ukrainians and Poles. [...] We cannot accept situations in which public commemoration of war victims becomes a pretext for spreading hatred. Disturbing someone's grief and memories is extremely inappropriate and contradicts the basic principles of culture and respect for other people'*. In response, on 25 February, an aggressive, xenophobic post was made on the Facebook page of Patrol Obywatelski Leszno. It featured a graphic with a slogan inciting ideological hostility, *'Death to the enemies of the homeland'*, and also contained the following words, *'We don't like that Ukrainian colours take on Polish colours; you force people to look at it, watch it – most people really don't like it, we've had enough! [...] We pay too much for them! ENOUGH OF THESE FREELOADERS!'* The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association submitted this post to Facebook for review due to the promotion of hatred. The platform refused to delete it.

WARSAW. On 4 March 2025, on the metro between the Praga-Polnoc and Srodmiescie areas, one of the passengers made vulgar, xenophobic remarks. He began his tirade after two teenage boys sitting near him, who had been talking to each other in Ukrainian, got off the train. The man then shouted, among other things, *'Ukrainian wh*res', 'Putin should shoot them all – I'm all for it!'* In reaction to his behaviour, one of the passengers sat down opposite the man and started recording him on her phone. He then fell silent and got off at the next stop.



OPOLE. On 13 April 2025, during a top-flight football match between Odra Opole and Wisla Krakow, one of the local hooligans attacked three dark-skinned Odra fans. One of the victims was Lukas Klemenz, a former player for both clubs and currently with GKS Katowice. He had come to the match with his eight-year-old son, a friend, and his sister-in-law. They were attacked by 19-year-old **Fabian O.**, resident of Glubczyce district, who shouted the racial slur *'n*ggers'* at both men, spat on them, and struck Klemenz's friend on the back of the head. The thug, who was accompanied by several men dressed in Odra Opole jerseys, also struck another Black fan in the face, shouting at him, *'Out, you f*cker!'* The moment of physical aggression was recorded on a phone by a witness, and the video was shared online. According to one website, *'the person who hit this Black fan was*



walking through the stands throughout the entire match, looking for other Black people there. [...] At least three such people were attacked, including Lukas Klemenz'. The victimised player reported the assault to the police. On 16 April, the police arrested Fabian O., and the Public Prosecutor's office charged him for racially motivated crimes – acts of violence and racially motivated insults. *'These offences were classified as acts of hooliganism, which increases the minimum sentence'*, said Assistant Inspector Przemyslaw Kedzior, press officer for the Opole Municipal Police Headquarters.

Furthermore, during the match, hooligans supporting Odra Opole displayed a huge xenophobic banner in the stands. It bore the slogan *'Stop immigrants'*.

Arkadiusz Wisniewski, Mayor of Opole, condemned these events, *'This is something to be expected, because today everyone accepts speaking ill of foreigners. About the refugees. Today, everyone says they don't want refugees in Poland; they say refugees need to be sent abroad. They're given this example [...] and they refer to it. There are many such aggressive behaviours'*.

In the case of the racist incidents at the Odra stadium, proceedings were initiated by the Disciplinary Committee of the Polish Football Association (PZPN) at the request of the PZPN Disciplinary Officer. On 17 February 2026, the Regional Court in Opole sentenced Fabian O. to a total of one year of imprisonment, suspended for three years. The defendant appealed the verdict, and the case was heard by the Wrocław Court of Appeal. In an interview with *'Przegląd Sportowy'* newspaper (14 March 2026), Lukas Klemenz recalled the moment of the attack and his eight-year-old son's reaction, *'[...] Wiktor saw and heard it all. That left the deepest mark on me. I have flashes before my eyes of my son shaking all over, crying, and repeating that he wants to go home to his mom because he doesn't feel safe. Those are the worst moments'*.

SREM. On 13 April 2025, 43-year-old **Mariusz Z.**, a self-declared Nazi, skinhead, and participant in so-called 'citizen patrols' – xenophobic groups targeting migrants – committed a brutal crime against a 16-year-old boy. As the teenager was walking along Kolejowa Street with a male and a female friend, a car carrying four men pulled up beside them. The attackers forced the boy into the vehicle, pinned him between the front and back seats, and placed a plastic bag over his head. They drove him to an area near the marina on the Warta River, dragged him out of the car, and sexually assaulted him using a telescopic baton. The victim returned home, but it was only four days later that he was able to report the assault to the police. According to the police statement, *'The evidence gathered indicates that the entire incident was planned by a 43-year-old man from Srem whose daughter had told him that she had been wronged by a 16-year-old boy. As a result, the man decided to «teach the teenager a lesson» and recruited accomplices to help him carry out the attack. Together with his daughter and her boyfriend, the 43-year-old acted together with three friends aged 37, 36 and 17. It was with these accomplices that he attacked the teenager in the street'*. When the police arrested Mariusz Z. on 21 April, he was wearing a T-shirt displaying symbols associated with the Third Reich: the image depicted an eagle holding a shield featuring a three-armed swastika known as the 'triskelion', symbol linked to the **Afrikaner Resistance Movement** in South Africa (**Janusz Walus**, who assassinated Chris Hani in 1993 in a racially motivated killing, was associated with this organisation). Police also stated that Mariusz Z. had participated in self-proclaimed citizen patrols in Srem and its vicinity, during which he had previously been stopped and questioned by police officers. Furthermore, he had prior arrests for robbery, fraud, failure to pay child support, document forgery, involvement in fights and assaults, and four burglaries. Five other individuals involved in the crime were also arrested. Four of them – residents of the Srem municipality aged 43, 37, 36 and 17 – were charged with

unlawful deprivation of liberty, extortion, and rape. All four were remanded in custody for three months. A fifth suspect, who was placed under police supervision, was expected to face charges of aiding and abetting the abduction of the teenager. The case later proceeded to trial. On 10 April 2026, the Regional Court in Poznan found Mariusz Z., **Franciszek G.** and **Michał L.** guilty of kidnapping the 16-year-old, threatening him with death and rape, physically assaulting him, and attempting to rape him. The fourth defendant **Jarosław J.** was convicted for participating in the kidnapping as the driver. Mariusz Z. was sentenced to seven years in prison; Michał L., a repeat offender, received six years and two months; and Franciszek G. was sentenced to five and a half years. Jarosław J. received a prison sentence of one and a half years.

SOSNOWIEC. On 23 May 2025, during a family picnic at Primary School No. 3, an incident of an Islamophobic nature occurred. A reenactment group presented a ‘hostage rescue show’ in which the kidnapper – or terrorist – was portrayed by a man dressed as a Muslim. Accompanied by Arabic music, the masked ‘kidnapper’, wearing a keffiyeh, dragged the ‘hostage’ to the centre of the sports field and held an object resembling a weapon to her head. Someone in the audience shouted mockingly, ‘*Allahu Akbar!*’ As part of the reenactment, a military vehicle drove onto the field, smoke grenades were deployed, and the female ‘prisoner’ was successfully ‘freed’ from the hands of the terrorist. The show was recorded and posted online. The video was subsequently shared on social media by, among others, Ireneusz Terlecki, a local government official, who later deleted his post. The video sparked outrage online. Ahmed Yousef Elsaftawy, a surgeon of Palestinian descent and head of the Department of Plastic and Hand Surgery at St. Jadwiga Slaska Hospital in Trzebnica, Lower Silesia, wrote, *‘This is not innocent fun. It is programming fear and constructing a worldview in which «Arab» equals «terrorist» and a keffiyeh is a threat, to which the only response is a weapon. This is how xenophobia and dehumanisation are born. This is how politicians build capital on divisions, even among children. It is shameful that schools, institutions meant to teach critical thinking and empathy, expose children to crude, clichéd media stereotypes. How many more times will Arab or Palestinian symbols be used as props to cheaply stoke fear?’* Speaking to local media, Aleksandra Kus-Grygier, headmistress, expressed regret over the incident, *‘I did not verify the content of the show in advance, which may well have been a mistake on my part, and for that, I apologise. It would never have crossed my mind to stigmatise or offend anyone; that was not our intention’.*

The show was prepared by a group of young people associated with the General Anders High School No. 3 in Dabrowa Gornicza. Its members describe themselves as a ‘group reenacting modern military missions in Afghanistan and Iraq’.

LODZ. On 9 July 2025, an ‘anti-immigration march’ organised by **Młodzież Wszechpolska (All-Polish Youth)** and **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)** took place. **Lukasz Rzepecki** of **Konfederacja** [1] also participated, as did hooligans from **Widzew Łódź** and **LKS Łódź** football clubs. March participants chanted, ‘*All of Poland sings with us, refugees f*ck off!*’ ‘*Poland for Poles*’ and ‘*Stop mass immigration!*’ At the head of the march was a large banner bearing the slogan ‘*Refugees out!*’



(intended to read ‘*Refugees out!*’), as well as an image depicting a refugee family with a child inside a prohibition sign.

[1] Member of **Nowa Nadzieja** (**New Hope**), part of **Konfederacja** (**Confederation** party); advisor to Polish President Andrzej Duda on youth policy between 2020-2025.

SZCZECIN. On 12 July 2025, in front of the Galaxy shopping centre, two residents brutally attacked a 16-year-old boy from Ukraine. They shouted, ‘*F*ck Ukrainians, they won’t live off our taxes!*’ and beat him with fists and kicked him until he lost consciousness. An ambulance took the boy to the hospital. Lawyer and mediator Marek Lagocki, head of the New Left party in Koszalin, informed the public about the assault. In a Facebook video, he appealed, ‘*This is not an incident. This is not a «simple brawl». This is the effect of right-wing incitement, contempt, and dehumanisation. This is the moment when hate ceases to be just words on the internet – and starts spilling blood in the streets. [...] Let’s react. Let’s not stay silent. Let’s not allow racism and violence to become the norm. I commend the two women who identified the attackers*’.

WARSAW. On 19 July 2025, the Stop Immigration march organised by far-right **Konfederacja** [1] took place in the capital city. Participants included members of **Narodowe Odrodzenie Polski** (**National Rebirth of Poland**) carrying a banner reading ‘*No to immigration, no to integration*’ with three prohibition signs featuring images of Africa, the Star of David, and the Islamic crescent with a Muslim family.



SZCZECIN. On 1 August 2025, a Facebook user incited violence against people with disabilities and made threats against a girl with Down syndrome. According to her parents, the man called for the child ‘*to be thrown into the river*’, for people with disabilities to be treated as ‘*subhumans*’, and for families like theirs to face social exclusion. He wrote that the ‘*defective thing*’ should be ‘*f*cking tossed into the Vistula River*’ and sent to the ‘*gas chambers*’. The comments were made under entries published by the girl’s parents, who run the Facebook profile *Inka Pralinka – Through Parents’ Eyes*. Through the profile, Inka’s parents describe everyday life as a family raising a child with a disability, support other families, and share their experiences. As of 1 May 2026, the profile had more than 88,000 followers. The parents reported the hateful comments to the District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Szczecin, ‘*Our report concerned a series of comments posted by one user in which our daughter was insulted in an extremely dehumanising manner. These statements also contained references to historical violence and totalitarian ideologies. We submitted a formal complaint and... that is where the state’s concrete action ended. The Public Prosecutor’s Office remains silent*’. Anna Gmiterek-Zablocka, journalist from the mainstream Radio Tok FM, became involved in the case and attempted to determine why the prosecution service had failed to respond. It later emerged that the proceedings were suspended after prosecutors had submitted a request to Meta Platforms in Ireland seeking access to information connected with the Facebook account. The parents subsequently filed a complaint regarding the investigators’ inaction.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 12 August 2025 Adam Wajrak, a journalist and conservationist, wrote on his Facebook profile about a xenophobic incident that he had witnessed. In early July, on the Brda River promenade, two men hurled insults at a group of Ukrainian children attending the Bydgoszcz Musical Impressions festival. They shouted at them, *'F*ck Ukraine, f*ck the refugees'*. Wajrak reported, *'Children with their guardians were walking along the riverbank. The children were mostly dressed in Krakow-style folk costumes. Since they were the ones being insulted, I concluded they were Ukrainian youth. I quickly located the shouters. Two young men, nearly conscription-aged, were sitting on a bench, shouting. I approached them and asked, not very politely [...]. They started mumbling something, saying that «they're on good terms with the Russkies, and the Ukrainians are walking all over us». There was no point in talking. I said goodbye to them rudely and went to the children in Krakow costumes. «Hang in there», I said'*. Wajrak commented bitterly on the incident, *'Yes, Russia is dipping its toes into stoking anti-Ukrainian sentiment in Poland. But Russia isn't the only one creating this cesspool. Polish politicians are flowing through it very efficiently and are strengthening it'*.

TUREK. On 21 August 2025, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed that a resident of this town had been behaving aggressively towards Ukrainian children in the playground on Kosciuszki Street. A woman constantly harassed the children, calling them names, including telling them to *'f*ck off to Ukraine'*. She also insulted their mothers, accusing them of *'not working'*, when, in reality, they were employed and working 12-hour shifts. Polish neighbours reported these incidents to the police. The aggressor was charged with insults based on nationality.

WARSAW. On 21 August 2025, officials from the Warsaw Education Office made a decision that effectively excluded a 17-year-old student on the autism spectrum from education. Despite education in Poland being compulsory for youngsters until the age of 18, the boy was not admitted to any special needs school in Warsaw. He was offered a place at the Special Educational and Care Centre in Trzcianka, 88 km from his home. However, he would not have been able to cope independently in a boarding school, while his parents were unable to drive him to and from school every day – a round trip of around 180 km. The parents unsuccessfully appealed to the Regional Board of Education for intervention. The case was also referred to the Ombudsman for Children, the Commissioner for Human Rights, the Government Plenipotentiary for Disabled People and the Ministry of Education. At the parents' request, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association intervened. In cooperation with the Association, the boy's case was publicised by the Warsaw edition of the daily *'Gazeta Wyborcza'*. The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, with the support of the Nasz Rzecznik human rights network, also appealed to the Warsaw Education Office to immediately provide the teenager with a place at a school in Warsaw, in accordance with the recommendations set out in his special educational needs assessment. The appeal was signed by 20 non-governmental organisations working to promote social inclusion. Thanks to these joint efforts, in the second half of September the boy was admitted to a special needs school on Elekoralna Street in Warsaw.

In April 2026, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association joined the public awareness campaign Different Needs. Equal Rights organised as part of World Autism Awareness Day.

OSTROW MAZOWIECKA. On 25 September 2025, a local resident attacked an 11-year-old dark-skinned boy in a housing estate on Lubiejewska Street. The attacker directed racist abuse at the

child and kicked him twice in the thigh. The victim is the son of a Polish mother and a Nigerian father. The boy's mother reported the incident to the police. An investigation was launched by the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Ostrow Mazowiecka, and the suspect was subsequently sought by the police. On 15 October, the media reported that police identified the suspect as 30-year-old **Konrad K.**, who was charged by prosecutors with publicly insulting and using violence against a minor on the grounds of his racial origin. According to Elzbieta Edyta Lukasiewicz, spokesperson for the District Public Prosecutor's Office in Ostroleka, *'the defendant's behaviour has been classified as a hooliganism offence'*. In April 2026, the indictment was submitted to the District Court in Ostroleka.

CHORZOW. On 2 October 2025, during a PE class at the Primary School No. 37 a seventh-grade student verbally abused his classmate from Ukraine. In a message received by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the girl's mother described the course of events, *'The student [...] publicly, in front of the teacher and other students, shouted vulgar insults at my daughter, using words such as «f*cking Ukrainian», telling her to «f*ck off to Ukraine», he humiliated and insulted her because of her nationality. Despite being reprimanded by the teacher [...] he did not apologise'*. The mother attempted to file a report with the police, but it was not accepted due to a *'lack of personnel on site'*, as the duty officer told her. She described the consequences for her daughter, *'My daughter feels threatened; she cannot sleep normally'*.

WROCLAW. On 7 October 2025, two residents of the city, **Malgorzata C.** and **Dawid L.**, attacked a 17-year-old Ukrainian shop assistant at a grocery store on Pereca Square. *'It all started because the shop assistant did not know how to sell a standard product in the store, which triggered a nationality-based attack. There was punching, kicking and pushing – the incident was quite dramatic'*, the victim's lawyer Filip Zielinski said in a press statement. During the attack, the perpetrators insulted the girl, calling her a *'f*cking Ukrainian'*, threatened to kill her, and then physically assaulted her. Dawid L. restrained the teenager by force, while Malgorzata C. hit her repeatedly – punching and slapping her in the face, kicking her across the body, and pulling her hair. When another shop assistant attempted to intervene, Dawid L. also assaulted him. The victim was taken to hospital. The Public Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into the attack. On 12 March 2026, the trial of Malgorzata C. and Dawid L., who are accused of assault, making threats, and insulting the victim on the grounds of her nationality, began at the Regional Court in Wroclaw.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 21 October 2025, a passenger on a city bus attacked a 12-year-old dark-skinned Polish boy. He shouted racist abuse at him and spat on him before getting off the bus and walking away. Police were notified of the incident and launched a search for the attacker. According to the Bielsko-Biala Municipal Police Headquarters, the investigation was supported by *'analysis of CCTV footage. Investigators eventually identified the suspect and arrested him'*. The man was charged with publicly insulting a person on racial grounds. In their statement police said, *'We strongly emphasise that there is and will be no tolerance for hate-motivated behaviour. Perpetrators of such acts cannot count on remaining anonymous'*.

LEGIONOWO. On 24 October 2025, on Zegrzynska Street, *'unknown perpetrators'* committed a xenophobic act of hostility against a Ukrainian family with two children. A handwritten note placed in their baby buggy in the apartment block corridor read, *'F*ck Ukraine! Get the f*ck out!'*

*F*ck off to the front!* The family had previously experienced hostility from Polish neighbours, a young couple. In a report received by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the victim stated, *'We called the police several times because of their behaviour at night – they were making noise [...] and not letting our children sleep. We also contacted the building administration asking for an*



intervention and contact with the owner of the apartment we rent. [...] We feel emotionally destroyed and are afraid to continue living in this place'.

KAZIMIERZ DOLNY. On 25 October 2025, an unidentified man committed an act of xenophobic violence against a Ukrainian student attending the Jan Koszczyc Witkiewicz School Complex. The incident took place at a grocery store near the Market Square. *'The boy was buying water and speaking Ukrainian on the phone, when a man approached him and punched him in the face'*, Beata Roslaniec, resident of Kazimierz Dolny, reported. The police were informed about the incident. *'We provided support to the student; a session with a psychologist was held in the presence of the boarding school manager. Fortunately, he did not require hospital treatment'*, said the school headteacher Robert Sadurski. The co-owner of the shop where the incident occurred commented to the WP news website, *'We do not tolerate or accept any form of aggression, especially on ethnic grounds. In response to the incident, our staff immediately offered assistance to the victim'*.

WARSAW. On 27 October 2025, a post was published on the **Korona Warszawa** [1] profile on Twitter/X condemning the medical aid provided by the Polish state to children in Ukraine. The post used references to World War II solely to incite hostility toward contemporary Ukrainians – in this case children, who were deprived of access to medicines due to Putin's invasion. The post read, *'A state-owned company donated 30,000 packs of antibiotics to Ukraine (for free). Where exactly? To the Lviv Regional Hospital named after Yuriy Lypa [2]. Who was Yuriy Lypa? He was active in the UPA and OUN [3]. OUTRAGE!'* An image attached to the post showed a screenshot from the *Gazeta Prawna* news website with an article entitled *'Poland supports Ukraine – 30,000 antibiotics for children have reached Lviv'*.

Under this post on the Korona profile, many comments were made calling for hatred towards Ukrainians, as well as expressing death wishes, for example:

- *'Down with Ukrainians and Ukrainian scum. There never was, there is not, and there never will be any f*cking Ukraine – remember that, you Banderite [4] pricks'*.

- *'Maybe they'll poison them faster, were there any strychnine packages?'*

[1] The Warsaw branch of Grzegorz Braun's Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (**Confederation of the Polish Crown**), party gathering far-right conspiracy theorists.

[2] Yuriy Lypa (1900–1944): a physician and writer killed by the NKVD (Soviet secret police agency, a forerunner of the KGB).

[3] UPA: **Ukrainian Insurgent Army** – nationalist organisation carrying out guerilla warfare in the 1940s, it led an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in the region of Volhynia. OUN: **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists** – the political wing of UPA.

[4] An insult towards Ukrainians based on association with **Stepan Bandera**: leader of OUN.

SLUPSK. On 17 November 2025, on Krolowej Jadwigi Street, several students of the Construction and Continuing Education School attacked four Ukrainian teenagers – students of the private School of Crafts in Slupsk – who were attending a month-long course organized by the first institution. As the Ukrainian students were heading to a bus stop, a group of Polish students followed them, shouting ‘Ukrainian whores’ and ‘F*ck Ukraine’. A parent of one of the victims reported: *‘One of the Polish students took out his phone and called someone, shouting that the Ukrainians are already here. Shortly afterward, two large boys ran out of the school. It later turned out they were adults and students of that school. They severely beat one boy – one held him while the other punched him. The boy had a broken nose and was covered in blood. The beating stopped only when a woman started shouting that she was calling the police’.* Lawyer Dawid Dehnert published an incident report on social media and in a letter to the school’s administration: *‘One of the attackers first spat in the face of one Ukrainian boy, saying «To the front line, you Ukrainian b*tch,» and started punching him in the face. The second attacker joined in, and together they beat a 16-year-old boy.*



Another Ukrainian student was struck in the back of the head, without even seeing who hit him’. As a result of the attack, one boy suffered a broken collarbone, and another was suspected of having a concussion. Parents immediately reported the case to the police but were told that ‘*there is no district officer*’ and that the report would not be accepted. Only the next day, after insistence by one of the mothers, did officers accept the report.

It emerged that on the day of the attack and in the preceding weeks, a teacher at the Construction and Continuing Education School had made contemptuous, xenophobic remarks toward Ukrainian students (two of whom were later attacked). During a lesson, he addressed them, among other things, with the words: *‘You are scum. If you take the exam next time, you will certainly fail, because I will prove to you who is a Pole’.* One Polish student expressed approval, approaching the teacher and saying, *‘That’s why I respect you’.* Additionally, a boy in that class repeatedly played sounds of falling bombs and rockets on his phone during lessons, telling Ukrainians: *‘Time to hide’.*

Speaking to the media, the mother of two of the attacked boys said: *‘All of this is terribly sad. My children have been in Poland for eight years and speak Polish fluently. There had been unpleasant situations before, also at school. But they never complained. I would never have expected such aggression to happen to them. What for?’*

On 10 December 2025, the Municipal Office in Slupsk published a bizarre statement in which Ukrainian students were accused of aggression toward Polish students. Officials also questioned the authenticity of phone recordings made during lessons: *‘According to information provided by the director of ZSBiKU [school], the recordings are manipulated, «cut», and edited. [...] Thus, there is no reliable evidence proving the teacher’s guilt’ [sic!].* This case was taken up ex officio

by the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), who requested information from the District Prosecutor's Office in Slupsk regarding the status of the case. On 21 April 2026, the Ombudsman's website stated that *'the Commissioner continues to monitor the case and is awaiting the final findings'*.

WARSAW. On 4 December 2025, the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association was informed about racist propaganda displayed near the intersection of Nowogrodzka Street and Emilia Plater Street. A Warsaw resident and cultural studies scholar drew attention to the design of a shocking sticker. The graphic featured on the stickers depicted two figures against the backdrop of the Warsaw skyline, placed inside a prohibition sign: a white-skinned woman, visibly unhappy, holding a Black infant in her arms. The image was accompanied by captions in both Polish and English: *'After the n**ger. I'm disgusted'* / *'Po czarnuchu. To ja się brzydze'*. According to the ideology of white supremacy, similarly to the doctrines promoted during the Nazi era, so-called 'racial mixing' should be forbidden. A relationship between a white woman and a Black man is regarded as 'race betrayal,' while children from 'mixed' relationships are considered 'impure'.



JELENIA GORA. Beginning on 16 December 2025 and continuing in the following days, the tragedy of an 11-year-old girl who was attacked with a knife and died from her injuries was used as a pretext for a campaign of disinformation and anti-Ukrainian hatred. On 16 December, the day after the killing, prosecutor Ewa Weglarowicz-Makowska, spokesperson for the District Prosecutor's Office in Jelenia Gora, announced that a 12-year-old pupil of Primary School No. 10 – the same school the victim attended – had been detained. In the days that followed, numerous posts appeared on social media falsely claiming that the suspect in the murder was Ukrainian, while also promoting hatred and violence against Ukrainians. Examples of such content included:

- A post by **Jaroslav Augustyniak**, associated with the pro-Russian political party **Zmiana (Change)**: *'A 12-year-old girl slit the throat of 11-year-old Danusia. The murderer is probably Ukrainian. [...] You will find hundreds of videos on internet [showing Ukrainians] [...] holding parties celebrating the Volhynia massacre [the ethnic cleansing of Poles by Ukrainians in 1943-1944] with a cake shaped like a small Polish child pierced with pitchforks. [...] I'll say this honestly: I do not want to live among Ukrainians. Let them go back to their wild fields'* (Facebook post from 18 December 2025; over 2,300 reactions and more than 1,800 shares as of 7 May 2026).

- A video in which an individual named **Marcin Bugaj** declared: *'Do you know who that girl was, the one who killed that Polish girl? She was a twelve-year-old Ukrainian girl. Did you know that? It was reported. Only now it has disappeared everywhere. [...] This is how it begins. Ukrainian children are murdering our children. And what about you? You are f*cking asleep'* (the material was posted on Bugaj's TikTok account, which was later removed by the platform, as well as on Twitter/X on an account called **'Ewa Ululska'**. In the latter case, the number of views reached

nearly 495,000 as of 7 May 2026. The statements made in the video were repeatedly reposted by other users).

- A post on Twitter/X from the account **'Motto'**, which regularly published anti-Ukrainian and antisemitic content: *'A 12-year-old Ukrainian girl stabbed an 11-year-old Polish girl to death and the media are silent. Get the f*ck out'* (more than 1,210 views as of 18 December 2025).

Official statements published, among others, by the Municipal Police Headquarters in Jelenia Góra and by Karolina Galecka, spokesperson for the Ministry of the Interior and Administration, denied that the murder suspect was Ukrainian.

On 22 December, the Provincial Police Headquarters in Wrocław announced on Facebook that 'actions undertaken by Lower Silesian officers, supported by police officers from Kielce and Kraków, led to the identification of two individuals who allegedly published online content inciting hatred on the grounds of nationality'.

The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association requested that the content published by Augustyniak and Bugaj be reviewed for hate speech, submitting reports respectively to Facebook (which provided no response) and to Twitter/X (which refused to remove the post).

GDYNIA. On 16 December 2025, **Konrad Niznik**, head of **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)** party in the Gdynia-Słupsk district, published a video on his Facebook and Twitter/X profiles in which he repeated false information with an anti-Ukrainian tone. Niznik stated, *'We received information that Christmas Eve celebrations for third-graders of a primary school in Gdynia could not take place due to the fact that Ukrainian children were part of these classes. Hence the decision by the Superintendent of Education in Gdansk to not organise such celebrations, simply to avoid, I don't know, causing these children discomfort or awkward situations'*. He also added, *'Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to remind you that this is still Poland, so forbidding Polish children to celebrate one of the most important holidays for a Catholic, namely Christmas, and thus to celebrate Christmas Eve, is something I consider extraordinary and outrageous'*. In the video, Niznik also showed letters addressed to the Superintendent of Education in Gdansk and the head of Primary School No. 12 in Gdynia, in which he demanded clarification as to *'whether such practices are taking place'*. Both the Superintendent's office and the school firmly denied the insinuations spread by the politician. Both institutions emphasised that no guidelines banning Christmas Eve celebrations had been issued and that such events were taking place as planned. Hundreds of comments were made under Niznik's post on Facebook and Twitter/X expressing hostility toward Ukrainian parents and children in Poland, for example:

- *'this is the Ukrainisation of Poland and that war of theirs is just an excuse for resettlement with the full consent of the ruling traitors'*.
- *'Our country our customs if you don't like it get out of here'*.
- *'They want to destroy our culture'*.
- *'If they don't like it, let them f*ck off back home! Nobody forces them to come to Christmas Eve'*.



- *'I don't give a f*ck about Ukrainian children, send them back to Ukraine where their beloved oligarchs will disassemble them into organs or send them to Mr. Klitschko's brothels'.*

Since 2023, Christmas in Ukraine has been celebrated on December 25 (same date as in Poland), following the transition of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine to the Revised Julian calendar.

[1] Konfederacja Korony Polskiej gathers far-right conspiracy theorists.

WARSAW. On 20 December 2025, a sports website Przegląd Sportowy Onet published an article about peer violence experienced by the 15-year-old daughter of Jurij Gladyr, Ukrainian-born volleyball player for the club Aluron CMC Warta Zawiercie and a Polish citizen. The student of the Vizja Educational Society High School was reportedly bullied and verbally abused at school. She also received a series of vulgar voice recordings on her phone, including messages targeting her national origin. In one of the recordings, a student addressed her with the words, *'I won't record this for you in Ukrainian, you b*tch, because I don't f*cking know how, but you know what...'* Two others said, *'We f*cking hate Ukrainians'*. Her mother informed the school authorities that her daughter was being subjected to psychological abuse. The school did not respond adequately to the situation and the parents received a letter informing them that... their daughter was being expelled from the school. Following media coverage, the case drew the attention of the Warsaw Metropolitan Police Headquarters, the Ministry of National Education, the Superintendent of Education, and the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

According to a study by the Institute of Media Monitoring (IMM), between 20 December 2025 and 10 January 2026, as many as 3,857 social media posts concerning this specific case were published. Sixty-three percent of these posts were negative in tone. Tomasz Lubieniecki from IMM summarises, *'We are observing a phenomenon in which an individual tragedy is being exploited to create an anti-Ukrainian narrative. Statements made by politicians [...] are becoming, in the hands of online radicals, tools for further attacks on the targeted student. [...] The personal matter involving the volleyball player's daughter has been used as a yet another sensational pretext for spreading hate speech based on nationality'*.

YEAR 2026

WARSAW. On 12 January 2026, the far-right columnist **Rafał Ziemkiewicz** published a video on his YouTube channel titled *'Ideolo. Let's Save Ourselves!'*, in which he spoke in a contemptuous tone about children with special educational needs, also including Ukrainian children in this group, portraying them as an alleged threat in Polish schools. Ziemkiewicz attributed exclusively negative features to these children and described inclusive education as a *'plague'*. He presented an absurd vision of the situation in Polish schools: *'All children with their dysfunctions are supposed to be in classes with normal children. [...] This is about placing children with every possible mental dysfunction into classrooms. Including aggressive ones, including those who understand nothing. [...] This also concerns children of other nationalities, even if they do not know the language at all. [...] Here little Johnny with Tourette syndrome is running around the classroom, constantly shouting, bothering and pulling other children. Here the [teacher] has to repeat everything using a Ukrainian translator because little Hryhorek [a Ukrainian boy's name - ed.] does not know a single word of Polish, and his parents do not know a single word of Polish either, but they all have to be in the same class because this is called inclusion. [...] Here we have some pathologically aggressive, messed-up little boy who beats other children'*.

In his hateful speech, Ziemkiewicz excluded children with special needs from the ‘normal’ children: *‘The [special-needs] children end up here among normal children who are terrified’*. Ziemkiewicz’s video received nearly 80,000 views. Among the comments posted underneath it were calls for violence against children: *‘A good old beating was the best educational method. [...] My whole generation was raised like that and somehow we are alive, supporting ourselves, we have families and children of our own, and that’s exactly the point. [...] A person must know boundaries and know how to behave. A beating with a belt was like restoring factory settings and installing updates,’* as well as glorification of war: *‘I’m really starting to DREAM about some serious war... That’s probably the only chance to restore people’s factory settings’*, and anti-Ukrainian content: *‘It’s a pity that Karol Nawrocki didn’t have enough courage to veto the law that still promotes Ukrainians’*.

The inclusive education condemned by Ziemkiewicz, also known as inclusive schooling, is a pedagogical approach aimed at ensuring equal educational opportunities for all students. Contrary to Ziemkiewicz’s false insinuations, the purpose of inclusive education is to create a school environment that enables every student to fully participate in the educational process.

BYDGOSZCZ. On 16 January 2026, a 15-year-old autistic boy was subjected to discrimination at the Rehabilitation and Educational Centre for Children and Young People with Autism. Unlawful coercive measures were reportedly used against him. The incident was reported to the Office of the Children’s Ombudsman. The Children’s Ombudsman, Monika Horna-Cieslak, described the case in a letter addressed to the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Justice, *‘Police officers arrived after being called by the school and they handcuffed the boy behind his back, despite the family’s requests for the handcuffs to be removed immediately. The entire incident was recorded by the boy’s relatives. According to the boy’s mother, her son – previously cheerful and calm – experienced severe stress after the incident and refused to return to school the following day. He was later admitted to a psychiatric hospital. This case demonstrates dramatic consequences of the lack of systemic regulations and appropriate guidelines for schools and emergency services intervening in situations involving neurodivergent children’*. She also stated, *‘A child with autism was treated in the same way as a person suspected of committing a crime’*. The Children’s Ombudsman appealed to the three ministries *‘to undertake legislative initiatives aimed at protecting children with disabilities, particularly children on the autism spectrum, from violence, and to regulate procedures for responding to situations involving a sudden threat to a child’s health or life within educational institutions’*. In the letter, Horna-Cieslak stressed that her office had for many months been receiving reports concerning inappropriate practices used against children with disabilities in mainstream, inclusive, and special schools, *‘These reports include, among other things, the use of physical restraint, the so-called «holding», pressing and isolating children [...], as well as interventions by public authorities which, due to the lack of procedures within the education system and insufficient awareness of autism spectrum conditions, are sometimes carried out in an inappropriate manner. In the Ombudsman’s view, such actions are entirely without legal basis’*. In 2024, in response to reports of institutional violence against neurodivergent children, the Children’s Ombudsman established the Team for the Protection of Children with Disabilities against Violence.

SUWALKI. On 24 January 2026, the far-right profile **WIR.TV** posted a racist video clip (‘reel’) on Facebook, edited from photographs taken during the traditional meeting between the city

mayor and the parents of the first child born in Suwalki in 2026. The photographs show a family of four: a Black man, his white-skinned wife, their young son, and their newborn daughter. The video was accompanied by a voice-over narration and the caption: *'This is not Germany or France. This is the first girl born in Suwalki in 2026. Pretty wild, huh?'*, while the post itself included a comment repeating a racist conspiracy theory: *'This is what population replacement looks like'*.



According to this narrative, white people are supposedly being replaced or displaced by non-whites – in this case, Poles by migrants from Africa. Some racist and vulgar comments appeared under that Facebook post, also targeting the children in the family, including:

- *'And later you get little zebras'*,
- *'How can someone disgrace herself with such a black guy, what is there to celebrate?'*,
- *'Shock, the white ra...ce'*,
- *'Such bi*ches should be sterilized!!!!'*,
- *'W*ore and traitor to the white race'*,
- *'An asphalt [racial slur against Black people in Polish - ed.] will always be asphalt. She is not Polish'*.

The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association reported the reel posted by WIR.TV to Facebook for review on the grounds that it promoted hatred. The video was deleted.

LOCHOW. On 31 January 2026, during the so-called Congress of National, Economic and Local Government Initiatives (KINGS), organized by **MEP Grzegorz Braun's Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)** party, a debate was held with the participation of **Lucyna Kulinska** (a retired lecturer at AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow), during which xenophobic comments regarding Ukrainian children were delivered. Kulinska asserted that Ukrainians possess no right to maintain their national identity, demanding their enforced polonization, *'If today we hear more and more foreign languages on the streets, we should ensure at least one thing: that our school system turns those who have arrived here into Poles'*. And further, in a chaotic argument about Ukrainians who have come to Poland over the last years, Kulinska declared: *'Something akin to family reunification has taken place before our eyes, ladies and gentlemen, which is what France is drowning in, for example, when African families start being reunited and it turns out that sixteen children from somewhere in Africa suddenly arrive. [...] As for Western Europe – it is even worse, because moral order there is beginning to be enforced by whom? Immigrants from Islamic countries. And they beat and chase naked people off beaches'*.

SZCZECIN. On the night of 16-17 February 2026, on 1 Maja Street, two attackers aged 19 and 16 brutally assaulted and maimed a 15-year-old boy from Ukraine. According to investigators, the perpetrators sprayed the teenager with an irritant and then punched and kicked him repeatedly, including in the head. The older attacker struck him with a machete, causing serious injuries, including numerous cuts to his legs, arms and head. As a result of the attack, the little toe on his right foot had to be amputated and the second toe partially amputated. The perpetrators also

stole the boy's mobile phone and shoes. On 17 February 2026, police arrested both suspects in connection with the attack. The investigation was supervised by the Szczecin-Niebuszewo District Public Prosecutor's Office. The 19-year-old was charged with the robbery involving the use of a dangerous weapon and causing grievous bodily harm. At the request of investigators, the Szczecin-Centrum District Court remanded him in custody for three months. The juvenile accomplice was placed in a high-security juvenile detention centre by order of the family court.

OLSZTYN. On 13 March 2026, at a primary school, one of the pupils engaged in aggressive behaviour toward a boy of Ukrainian origin. During class, he punched him in the stomach while shouting xenophobic insults, *'You f*cking Ukrainian!'*. According to a message received by the 'NEVER AGAIN' Association, the mother of the Ukrainian child stated, *'the incident took place in the presence of a support teacher, who did not intervene in any way'*. She also added, *'For a long time, the school had been downplaying reports that my son was being bullied'*. The Municipal Police Headquarters in Olsztyn was notified about the case.

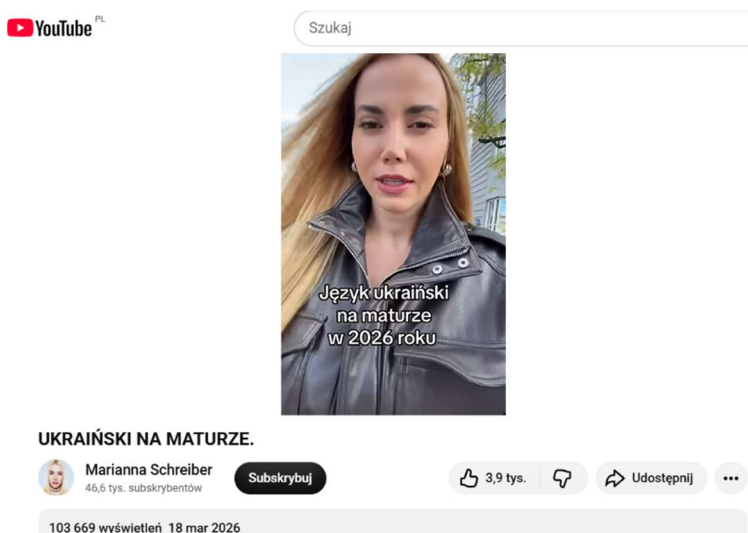
WARSAW. On 18 March 2026, Polish celebrity **Marianna Schreiber**, associated with the right-wing television channel **wPolsce24**, published a video on her YouTube channel entitled *'Ukrainian language in the matriculation exam'*, in which she promoted xenophobic conspiracy theories. In the video, she suggested that allowing the Ukrainian language to be taken as an optional subject in Poland's final secondary-school

examinations could eventually lead to Ukrainians... taking over Poland. She stated, *'High school students taking their final exams will be able to choose Ukrainian as a modern foreign language. Is this some progressing Ukrainisation of Poland, ladies and gentlemen? I mean... what is the point of that? Ukrainian is a language that can only really be used in Ukraine, because no one outside Ukraine will understand you if you speak Ukrainian. Unless, of course, the plan is for Poland to become a binational state'*.

Under a regulation introduced in February 2023 by the then Minister of Education and Science Przemysław Czarnek, Ukrainian was added to the list of modern foreign languages available in the state final examinations. The Ukrainian language exam has been introduced since the 2025/2026 academic year.

As of 13 May 2026, Schreiber's video had been viewed nearly 104,000 times. Numerous anti-Ukrainian comments were made underneath the video on YouTube, including:

- *'Poland for Poles!!!'*
- *'Let them go back to their own country, out of Poland'*,
- *'Go back to Ukraine, freeloaders'*.



The 'NEVER AGAIN' Association submitted both the video and the comments to YouTube for review on the grounds of hate speech. Neither the video nor the comments were removed, and the platform did not respond.

LODZ. On 24 March 2026, a man riding a scooter shouted xenophobic abuse at a Ukrainian woman who was walking with her child along a cycle path on Politechniki Alleys. The victim reported the incident to the police. Officers from the 7th Police Station of the Lodz Municipal Police Headquarters launched a search for the perpetrator of the nationality-based abuse. A photograph of the suspect, captured by one of the city's CCTV cameras, was published on the police website.



RACIAZ. On 7 April 2026, two assailants attacked a 16-year-old Ukrainian boy. *'According to the findings of the investigation, the boy was approached by two men near a grocery store, asking him to buy alcohol for them. When he refused, explaining that he was underage and had no money, the situation appeared to end at that point. However, a few moments later, near another shop, the same men ran up to the teenager again. One of them allegedly punched him in the face and began insulting him because of his nationality'*, a press release published on the website of the Plonsk District Police Headquarters stated. The perpetrators then fled the scene. The boy called the police. Police officers later arrested two men from the Drobin and Raciaz districts in one of the town's parks. Both admitted guilt. They were charged with nationality-based abuse, while one of the perpetrators was additionally charged with assault.

WARSAW. On 13 April 2026, former Warsaw City Council member **Monika Jaruzelska** published on her YouTube channel an interview with **Marta Czech**, a prominent activist of **MEP Grzegorz Braun's Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)** [1]. In her remarks, Czech made a radically discriminatory statement expressing opposition to Polish and Ukrainian children being educated



in schools together, *'Ms. Mucha [2] is introducing some Ukrainian components, bringing Ukrainian children into Polish classrooms, where the level is lowered, where there are various personal conflicts, where the Polish child does not have full freedom and does not feel at home, because in the company of foreigners they feel alienated – we do not want this'*.

During the conversation, M. Czech also promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and questioned the historical truth about the Holocaust. She claimed, *'We are not masters in our own country if, as Poles, we cannot investigate the truth scientifically, [...] we are not at home in some places within our country's borders, and it's not only Jedwabne, but also Polin [the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews in Warsaw - ed.] and Auschwitz [...]. Jews are spreading a haggadah in our country, meaning a false story about Jedwabne [3] [...]. We do not want outsiders – in this case Jews – dictating what we should do in our own country. We want to serve the truth, not some haggadah that aligns not with our standards, but with Talmudic ones. [...] It is a pity that*

the authorities in Poland – one president, another president, the government – serve some lobby, in this case a Jewish, Zionist one. [...] But this lobby is not present only in Poland; if we look, for example, at the United States that acts at every call of Jewry...’ The host did not react in any way to these remarks.

[1] Konfederacja Korony Polskiej gathers monarchist, far-right conspiracy theorists. Braun is a Holocaust denier, and he has for years promoted conspiracy theories about Jews taking over Poland, mocked the victims of Nazi camps, called for violence against LGBT people, and boasted about violently tearing down Ukrainian flags. In May 2025 the European Parliament lifted his immunity.

[2] Joanna Mucha held a position at the Ministry of National Education between 2023-2025.

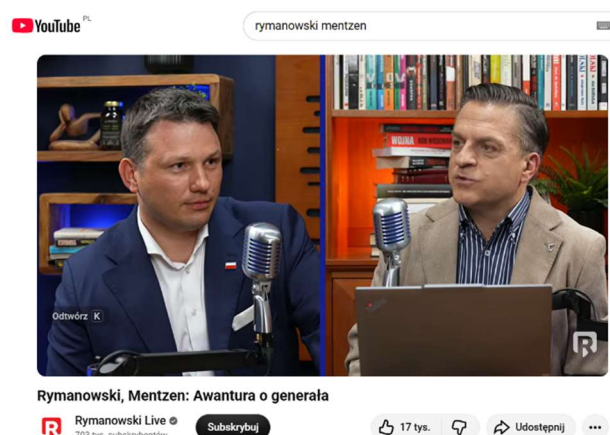
[3] In Judaism, haggadah traditionally means a tale, legend, or parable; in Czech’s statement, the term was used mockingly to question the historical facts about the Jedwabne pogrom of 1941, where in presence of German occupying forces, mass murder of Jews was committed by their Polish neighbours.

OLSZTYN. On 1 May 2026, in one of the city parks, two girls shouted nationality-based insults at a 12-year-old boy of Ukrainian origin and pushed him. His 14-year-old brother stood up in his defence. He was also met with aggression – one of the attackers punched him in the face. After the boys walked away, the girls called for their older (adult) acquaintances. When they arrived at the park, they brutally attacked the older of the two brothers. They beat and humiliated him, forced him to kneel and kiss one of the girl’s shoes, and shouted insults directly related to his nationality, including: *‘Ukrainian wh*re’, ‘Ukrainian c*nt’* and *‘Back to Ukraine!’* They also threatened him, saying that *‘if they find him, they will kill him and transport him in a boot of a car back to Ukraine’*. The boy was hospitalised. The police were notified about the incident. On 6 May, lawyer Dawid Dehnert announced on his Facebook profile that he would be providing the victim with free legal assistance. He also stated, *‘As a lawyer, I will seek to ensure that this case is treated with gravity, not only as the beating of a child, but also as a possible hate crime motivated by nationality-based hatred. There is no consent for children in Poland to be beaten, humiliated, and intimidated simply because they are from Ukraine’*.

SOSNOWIEC. On 3 May 2026, **Krzysztof B.**, a 44-year-old resident of Sosnowiec, assaulted a 12-year-old boy from Ukraine. *‘The man struck the boy on the head, causing superficial injuries. The evidence gathered by investigators leaves no room for doubt: the sole motive for the attack was hostility towards people of Ukrainian nationality’*, said Bartosz Kilian, spokesperson for the Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office in Sosnowiec. Less than two months later, on 27 June, Krzysztof B. attacked an adult Ukrainian citizen who was shopping at a grocery store. When the perpetrator heard the man speaking Ukrainian on the phone, he flew into a rage: he insulted him in public, pushed him and kicked him repeatedly. Another attack took place on 1 July. At a pet grooming salon, the assailant made obscene gestures at two women and sprayed them in the face with pepper spray. Sosnowiec police arrested Krzysztof B. in early July. *‘A check of the suspect’s criminal record revealed that he had previously been convicted on numerous occasions of offences against sexual freedom and public decency, as well as offences against life, health, and property’*, the Sosnowiec Regional Public Prosecutor’s Office stated in a press release. The investigation was supervised by the Sosnowiec-Południe District Public Prosecutor’s Office. The man was charged with a total of six offences, including using violence and insulting a person on the grounds of their nationality, while acting as a repeat offender. The Public Prosecutor’s Office applied to the District Court in Sosnowiec for the suspect to be remanded in custody, citing the *‘likelihood of reoffending against life, health or public safety’*. The court granted the application and ordered three months’ pre-trial detention.

WARSAW. On 7 May 2026, on the Swietokrzyski Bridge, a group of 10 attackers brutally beat three Ukrainian teenagers. The incident occurred when four young people from Ukraine and their Polish friend were walking across the bridge towards Praga district, speaking to each other in Ukrainian and Russian. According to one of the injured youths, who described the incident in a press statement, the confrontation began when the attackers accosted and pushed them. They directed a homophobic insult at a 16-year-old boy with long hair, asking, *'Are you a fa*got?'* The attackers then became violent and physically assaulted the teenagers. They punched and struck them with brass knuckles and pepper-sprayed the 16-year-old Ukrainian. When he fell to the ground, they kicked him in the head. The perpetrators also attacked his friend, broke his glasses, and attempted to throw him from the bridge into the Vistula River. They were unsuccessful because the boy held on to the railings. The third teenager suffered a broken nose. During the incident, the attackers shouted, *'F*ck off to Ukraine!'* A witness managed to attract the attention of a passing police patrol. Seeing the officers, the attackers fled. An ambulance was called to the scene. The most severely injured victim was the 16-year-old boy, who suffered a fractured skull and severe facial injuries. In a press release, Superintendent Paulina Onyszko of the Warsaw VI District Police Headquarters stated, *'the current findings and the evidence collected so far do not indicate that this event was based on nationality'*. On 14 May, the police detained five of the attackers, including three who were under seventeen. The following day, the Warsaw-Praga Polnoc District Public Prosecutor's Office charged **Leon Marek M.** and **Wiktor O.-K.** with assaulting three people with a dangerous weapon and requested they be remanded in custody. The court placed three of the underage attackers in a juvenile detention facility. The beaten 16-year-old underwent surgery for a compound skull fracture and faced a lengthy recovery. Marina Hulia, social activist supporting refugees and friend of the boy's family reported, *'He says that the headaches are unbearable and that if it weren't for the police, the youths would have tortured them to death'*. She also added, *'His family works hard and helps Poles every day. His mother, grandmother and older sister work in a care facility for the elderly. [...] They fled to Poland after the outbreak of the war. They lived in the Zaporizhzhia Oblast, in areas that have been under occupation since the first day of the war. They came to Poland seeking safety and peace'*.

WARSAW. On 11 May 2026, during an interview with Bogdan Rymanowski broadcast on the Rymanowski Live YouTube channel, Member of Polish Parliament **Slawomir Mentzen** [1] made false statements fuelling hostility towards young people from Ukraine. He stated, *'Do you know how much it costs Poland to keep Ukrainians in juvenile correctional centres? 1.2 billion Polish zloty. All of them should be deported to Ukraine, and we save 1.2 billion annually just like that'*. He continued, *'It's all in the documents; I didn't make it up. The cost of keeping one person in a juvenile correctional centre multiplied by the number of Ukrainians in juvenile correctional centres multiplied by twelve months: 1.2 billion'*. Mentzen's remarks were addressed by Deputy Minister of Justice Maria Ejchart, who – unlike him –



provided actual data, *‘The annual cost of supporting all children in juvenile correctional centres in Poland is approximately 40 million Polish zloty, while financially supporting Ukrainians costs 1.2 million Polish zloty [i.e. 1000 times less than claimed by Mentzen - ed.]. There are only a few individuals of Ukrainian nationality in our juvenile correctional centres’*, she said in an interview with ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’ daily. Furthermore, on her Twitter/X profile, Ejchart expressed outrage at Mentzen’s words, *‘A child, regardless of what passport they hold or how far they may have gone astray, is still a child – often traumatised and in need of care and guidance, not an «Excel spreadsheet entry» to be crossed out. Calling for the deportation of minors to «save» the millions you made up is simply moral bankruptcy’*.

[1] Mentzen, a former presidential candidate, is the leader of **Nowa Nadzieja (New Hope)**, part of **Konfederacja (Confederation)** party) – a bloc consisting of two groups: **Nowa Nadzieja (New Hope, radical right)** and **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement, ethnonationalist)**.

LUBLIN. On 18 May 2026, on the **Niezalezny Lublin (Independent Lublin)** YouTube channel, **Lucyna Kulinska**, PhD (retired lecturer at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow), spread conspiracy theories about Ukrainian refugee children. During a programme hosted by **Grzegorz Zawadzki**, she delivered a tirade containing also antisemitic and anti-German remarks, *‘Ukrainian children are receiving several thousand [PLN] a month! Ladies and gentlemen, this is happening! [...] Who makes such laws? Someone who hates Poles, who wants to drive Poles into financial ruin and take over our country. [...] People, let’s not put up with this, let’s not allow it! [...] The Zionists, together with the Ukrainians and Germans, won’t give us a moment’s peace [...]. I call on you to fight!’*

Kulinska’s claims were false; there are no regulations that would favour children from Ukraine over Polish children or grant them the amounts she mentioned.

WARSAW. On 24 May 2026, an unidentified man attacked an 11-year-old Ukrainian boy in a playground on Staffa Street. The boy’s mother described the incident in a post in the Warsaw Bielany – Residents’ Facebook group, *‘Just as the children were getting ready to go home, a man suddenly started running after them. My son was riding his scooter at the back of the group. The man caught up with him, shoved him hard with his shoulder, and then struck him in the face. He then asked, «Are you from Ukraine?»’* The attacker walked away, and the boy’s mother reported the incident to the police. She later bitterly wrote, *‘The most terrifying thing about this situation is that there were adults nearby. No one reacted, no one came near the child, no one tried to help. And I think that is what I am most ashamed of’*.

KATOWICE. On 28 May 2026, at a sitting of the Katowice City Council, councillor **Leszek Piechota** of **Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (PiS; right-wing Law and Justice, main opposition party)** made xenophobic remarks and demanded to remove from the agenda a vote on a draft resolution concerning the organisation of a summer camp for 44 children from the Ukrainian city of Bucha. Bucha has become one of the most tragic symbols of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. During a 33-day occupation, 561 civilians, including children, were murdered there. In 2022, Katowice and Bucha signed a cooperation declaration that included provisions for humanitarian and social support.

Piechota attempted to block aid for the Ukrainian children by referring to the World War II atrocities committed by the **Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA)** [1]. Perpetuating disinformation spread by pro-Putin circles, he also suggested that the support provided to Ukrainians thus far

had come at the expense of Polish citizens, *‘[Poland] provides comprehensive support to that state, including at the local government level. It is worth asking, in this context, about priorities and basic fairness’*. Piechota’s statement drew criticism from fellow councillors, including Piotr Pietrasz, head of the PiS councillors’ group. Maciej Stachura, Deputy Mayor of Katowice, addressed Piechota, *‘Mr. Councillor, you are attacking children who live in the shadow of war, whose lives and health are constantly at risk. What you are doing is repulsive and shameful. These children have already been robbed of their childhood, and yet you want to deprive them of one week of normal vacation. Never have I heard a more appalling statement at a City Council session’*. Ultimately, 27 out of 28 councillors voted in favour of organising an eight-day stay for children from Bucha and their guardians at a scout camp near Krynica Morska. Piechota did not participate in the vote.

[1] UPA is the acronym for the **Ukrainian Insurgent Army**, active during World War II and responsible for the Volhynian massacre of Poles in the 1940s.

HREBENNE. On 9 June 2026, at the Polish-Ukrainian border crossing, officers denied entry into Poland to Ukrainian refugees of Roma origin. Two families were turned back: a mother with three children and a mother with her one-year-old daughter. Both families had arrived in Hrebenne on an evacuation bus from Ukraine organised by the Rubikus Help UA foundation. There were 42 other Ukrainian refugees on board, all of whom were permitted to cross the border. The official reasons given for refusing the Roma families entry into Poland were the lack of a document confirming the purpose of entry as well as citizenship of one of the women. However, according to a Rubikus representative, the woman was a Moldovan national and had the right to enter the Schengen Area visa-free. Furthermore, she held a Ukrainian permanent residence card, which, under an EU Council Directive in effect until March 2027, entitled her to temporary protection within the European Union. In addition, the Roma families were traveling to a specific refugee centre in Germany. Rubikus had secured pre-paid accommodation for them in Warsaw and tickets for the onward journey to Hamburg. Despite all these, the Border Guard did not allow them to enter Poland.

The activists described what they considered inappropriate behaviour by the guards towards the Roma women, *‘the officers did not allow them to photograph the documents they were asked to sign, they confiscated their passports and phones, deleted photos of the documents from the devices, and then escorted everyone to the Ukrainian side, where they gave them back the unsigned documents and the phones’*. The Roma women and their children returned to Odessa. The city has been regularly bombarded by Russian forces since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

WARSAW. On 9 June 2026, far-right commentator **Rafal Ziemkiewicz** uploaded a 37-minute tirade entitled ‘Ungrateful Ukraine’ on his YouTube channel, in which he focused on Polish-Ukrainian disputes and ridiculed aid provided to Ukraine while inciting hatred against Ukrainian refugees, particularly children. Referring to Ukrainian refugees he claimed, *‘Ukraine says: [...] we’re taking your millions and you can kiss our noses, because we Ukrainians are fighting for the whole world, [...] so that Ukrainian oligarchs stealing military aid can install gold door handles and gold toilet bowls, and so their children can wallow in luxury here in Poland and in Western countries’*. He also combined hostility towards Ukrainians with antisemitism, *‘Part of this operation of robbing Poles involves resorting to Banderism [1] [...] and inciting hatred against Poles; hatred is a prelude to theft, lies and accusations are a prelude to plunder. Just as we see it with the international Jewish community, where all the accusations regarding Poles’ alleged*

complicity in the Holocaust, and all the lies spread by Gross, Grabowski, Rossolinski-Liebe [2], and others of their ilk, go hand in hand with the demands made by Jewish organisations and various Western law firms that have already siphoned billions from Poland using scams'. Finally, he expressed hope that the war against Ukraine would continue, 'We need this war to continue [...] let's not interfere; let them destroy each other, let this war last as long as possible. Any signs of «falling in love» with Ukraine are something sick'.

The video attracted a multitude of anti-Ukrainian comments, including:

- *'All resources and efforts should be directed toward closing the borders with Ukr and deporting all ukry [3] from Poland! (...) We must immediately STOP FUNDING UKRAINE and de-Ukrainise Poland!'*

- *'If we don't kick the f*ckers out, they'll replace us in our own country and then attack us under the pretext of minority rights; it's f*cking worrying that they're already sitting in government positions',*

- *'Spot on. I don't trust them, not one bit'.*

- *'Hey, it's not just the ukry pulling our strings. Politicians come from f*cking Uganda, and our guys drop their pants and bend over. We need **Braun** and **konfederacja** to do the cleansing' [4].*

- *'Dear Mr. Ziemkiewicz, I wouldn't be so quick to blame Putin for Bucha. After all, why did the Ukrainians refuse a Red Cross inspection?'*

- *'It is in Poland's interest for the war in Ukraine to last as long as possible and be as destructive as possible for both sides. Both the Ruthenians from Moscow and the Ruthenians from Kyiv are our enemies. And when our enemies kill each other, it's pure gain for us'.*

- *'An interesting idea would be to snatch Zelensky and hand him over to Moscow in exchange for the artworks stolen from us'.*

- *'We should pray that this war never ends'.*

- *'The Ukrainians' attitude toward Poland deserves scorched earth'.*

- *'Apparently, Hanukkah menorahs are being erected in all major towns in Ukraine. These Banderites are somehow strange, or maybe the «founding father» of the land of U, Stepan B., was a Y*d too???'*

[1] I.e. supporting the ideology of **Stepan Bandera**, leader of the **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)** in the 1940s.

[2] Jan Tomasz Gross, Jan Grabowski, Grzegorz Rossolinski-Liebe: historians of the Holocaust.

[3] Ukry: Polish slur word used against Ukrainians.

[4] **Grzegorz Braun** is a far-right politician, **Konfederacja (Confederation)** is a far-right political party.

GDANSK. On 14 June 2026, in a park on St. Barbara Street, an aggressive woman aged approximately 30–35 assaulted a 14-year-old boy from Ukraine. Victim's family lawyer told the local media, *'Immediately before the incident, in the playground, the boy was talking to his friends in Ukrainian. A passing woman told him, «Don't speak Ukrainian», and proceeded to physically assault him. She repeatedly struck him on the head and ears with her open hands while shouting profanities, then kneed him in the head three times and, as he fell to the ground, she kicked him in the head'.* The attack was stopped only when another woman who witnessed the incident from a distance intervened and confronted the assailant. The Ukrainian boy sustained a head injury and was transported to the Emergency Department of Copernicus Hospital in Gdansk where he was hospitalised. Officers from the Gdansk Municipal Police Headquarters began a search for the assailant.

WARSAW. On 21 June 2026, a 14-year-old Ukrainian boy was beaten by an unidentified man at a bus stop. Journalist Anna Gmiterek-Zablocka reported details of the incident on Tok FM radio, *'The boy was with friends, returning from Czerniakowskie Lake in Warsaw. [...] His scooter's battery had run out, so he decided to take the bus. At the stop, another boy approached him and demanded that he perform tricks on the scooter, such as a wheelie. When the Ukrainian teenager refused, he was subjected to hate speech based on his nationality. Moments later, a man, presumed to be the attacking boy's father, stepped in'*. The man punched the 14-year-old Ukrainian in the face several times. The victim was taken to the hospital, where doctors ordered a CT scan, suspecting an orbital fracture. The boy's mother reported, *'Fortunately, the tests showed nothing serious. He has severe bruising, and one eye is simply black'*. The woman reported the incident to the police. Marta Haberska, spokesperson for the Warsaw II District Police Headquarters, stated that officers were investigating the matter. The victim had just finished the eighth grade of primary school. He had arrived in Poland with his mother following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

WARSAW. On 23 June 2026 and in the following days, the tragic death of a 15-year-old Ukrainian who drowned at the Glinianki swimming spot in Zielonka near Warsaw, was met with expressions of satisfaction by some internet users and was exploited to express anti-Ukrainian hatred.

For example, the following comments were made under a post on the Miejski Reporter Facebook page which has 465,000 followers and publishes news about accidents in Warsaw and the surrounding area:

- *'one less Ukrainian in Poland'*.
- *'One less moron'*.
- *'touching, but Ukrainian so savage'*.
- *'that's not a child, but a 15-year-old Banderite [1]'*.
- *'F*ck him, he's Ukrainian; let them all end up there'*.
- *'Don't fish him out – why waste the money?' / 'why let him stink?' / 'the fish will eat it'*.
- *'Finally, they're disposing of themselves'*.
- *'Karma for Volhynia caught up with him'*.
- *'you're another example of why it wasn't worth saving the sidelock-wearers during the war'*.

When other internet users, outraged by these comments, demanded that the commenting function on the Miejski Reporter page be disabled, the administrator responded mockingly, *'These are *your* comments, not mine. Report them to FB instead of making a scene here. I have other things to do during the day'*.

Both boy's parents had died in the war in Ukraine. In Poland, he was looked after by his sister. As the prosecutor's office reported, *'she is the only living representative of the deceased's family'*.

[1] I.e. supporting the ideology of **Stepan Bandera**: leader of **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)** which is held responsible for an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in the region of Volhynia in 1943-44. Today "Banderite" is often used as an ethnic slur against Ukrainians.

PLOCK. On 27 June 2026, on a bus serving route No. 3, a passenger attacked a 15-year-old boy and his female friend while they were conversing in Ukrainian. *'He told us that in Poland Polish must be spoken'*, the teenage victim recounted. The man behaved aggressively towards them, using vulgar language and demanding they leave for Ukraine. He also resorted to physical violence striking the boy across the face with an open hand and, when the bus doors opened at

the Stanislawowka stop, shoving both teenagers out of the vehicle. The District Public Prosecutor's Office in Plock has launched an investigation into *'the use of violence against two Ukrainian minors based on their national origin'*.

POZNAN. On 27 June 2026, the 'Poznan Na Prawo' (Poznan to the Right) conference was held at the Hotel Moderno. Participants included Member of the European Parliament **Grzegorz Braun** (leader of **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej** [1]), **Leszek Sykulski** (co-founder of **Polski Ruch Antywojenny** [2]), **Piotr Barelkowski** (a far-right media representative), and **Ireneusz Jablonski** [3]. During the event, participants made anti-Ukrainian remarks consistent with Putinist propaganda, and even Ukrainian children were spoken of with contempt.

Addressing the conference, Sykulski denied the very fact that a full-scale war was taking place in Ukraine and described war refugees in Poland as a *'demographic bomb'*, *'It was clear from the start that this would not be a full-scale war, that its goal would be to use a «D-bomb» against the Polish state, a demographic bomb, by which I mean an operation of great replacement [of people in Poland]'*. He also warned of an alleged threat posed by, among others, Ukrainian cleaners, *'We are witnessing a Ukrainian march through Polish institutions: from cleaners to IT engineers, to officials in provincial offices, and municipal, commune, and county offices'*. He also repeated the slogan *'Stop the Ukrainisation of Poland'*, which alludes to a conspiracy theory alleging that Ukrainians are taking over Poland.

Braun echoed Sykulski in stoking hostility towards refugees, *'Who do we have here? Who has entered the country? Who is not merely a guest, or someone who has made themselves at home, but who is actually in charge here? Because within the structures and administration of the Polish state, and I fear within the security services and, of course, the army, structures and organisations belonging to foreign states have embedded themselves; after all, this concerns more than just Ukraine'*. He called for all people of Ukrainian descent in Poland to be required to sign a bizarre *'anti-Banderite loyalty pledge'* [4], placing particular emphasis on children, *'From preschool and nursery school to the grave, every Ukrainian on Polish soil, whether attending school or holding office, and they do hold power, currently in local government, though we have Ukrainians in the national government too; not to mention the covert, camouflaged ones, everyone should sign the kind of anti-Banderite loyalty pledge that our youth wing proposed back in 2022. This is no laughing matter; it is a question of the lives, health, and property of Poles'*. Braun urged, *'Let this remain Poland, not Ukropol, not Ukropolin, not some Anglo-Saxon state or bantustan managed by others, and not Judeopolonia'*. [5] He also called for the expulsion of *'aliens'* from Poland, *'Systemic re-emigration is needed, and this must be carried out in Poland for the sake of collective security, both internal and external, starting with Ukrainians'*

[1] **Grzegorz Braun's Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)** gathers far-right conspiracy theorists. Braun is a Holocaust denier, and he has for years promoted conspiracy theories about Jews taking over Poland, mocked the victims of Nazi camps, called for violence against LGBT people, and boasted about violently tearing down Ukrainian flags. In May 2025 the European Parliament lifted his immunity.

[2] **Polski Ruch Antywojenny (Polish Anti-War Movement)**: a group considered to be pro-Russian.

[3] Former Deputy Mayor of Lodz who ran for the Parliament as Konfederacja candidate in the 2023 general election.

[4] *'Banderite'* – someone supporting the ideology of **Stepan Bandera**: leader of **Organisation of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN)** which is held responsible for an ethnic cleansing campaign against Poles in the region of Volhynia in 1943-44. Today "Banderite" is often used as an ethnic slur against Ukrainians.

[5] *Ukropol*: term suggesting Poland has been taken over by Ukraine. *Ukropolin*: *Polin* is the Hebrew name for Poland, here implying Poland is supposedly under Jewish and Ukrainian control. *Judeopolonia*: antisemitic conspiracy theory warning against a Poland dominated by Jews.

ZAWADA. On 2 July 2026, in this village located in Myslenice County, the owner of the Rybka commercial fishery subjected a 16-year-old Ukrainian boy and his mother to verbal abuse based on their nationality. *‘When my son approached the staff to report a tangled fishing line, an older woman (approximately 73-years-old) flew into a rage. She began shouting profanities at the child («Shut up», «F*ck»), publicly making fun of his accent. [...] When the boy tried to calmly explain the situation, the woman began to mimic him, mocking his accent and shouting that she «couldn't stand listening to it». [...] She reduced my son to tears and laughed at his depression, shouting that «everyone has depression»’,* the boy’s mother recounted in a statement obtained by the ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association. When the mother stepped in to defend her son, the owner of the establishment launched into a tirade against Ukrainians, *‘You feel entitled to everything’, ‘Get out of here and that’s it’, ‘You’ll bring war upon us! During the war, you sided with the Germans and slaughtered us... impaling children on pitchforks!’* The affected boy suffers from clinical depression and is undergoing treatment for war-related trauma. The aggression by the fishery owner had significant consequences for him and, as his mother wrote, led to a *‘severe setback in his treatment’*. The Ombudsman for Children has been notified of the incident.

LODZ. On 3 July 2026, the local edition of ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’ daily published an article about a video secretly recorded in one of the city’s parks, showing dark-skinned women and children spending time together and playing there. The recording was made without their knowledge or consent. The video was uploaded to social media with the caption, *‘Mass immigration is already here’*. Among those filmed was the wife of a city resident originally from Cameroon, who has lived in Poland for more than 19 years. The video was quickly shared online by other users, and it attracted many racist comments. It was shared, among others, on the profile of **Klaudia Domagala**, an activist of **Nowa Nadzieja** [1], who unsuccessfully ran for the European Parliament in 2024 and (also unsuccessfully) for Mayor of Lodz. She is known for promoting content with xenophobic overtones. The video quickly disappeared from her profile, and she herself stated that she was not its author.

In an interview with the Lodz edition of ‘Gazeta Wyborcza’, the Cameroonian man who was affected by the incident said that he contacted people who had shared the material and asked them to remove it. He bitterly summed up the situation, *‘This is my family. These are people I know. I will not allow such treatment. Everyone has the right to their own opinions and views, but they should not record people who are unaware of it and then use them in a propaganda message’*.

[1] **Nowa Nadzieja** (**New Hope**) is a radical-right organisation, together with **Ruch Narodowy** (**National Movement**) comprising **Konfederacja** (**Confederation**) parliamentary party.

WROCLAW. On 10 July 2026, a passenger on a tram hurled racist insults at an Egyptian man, his wife, and their child. The assailant got off at Hallera Street. On 17 July, the Wroclaw Municipal Police Headquarters released an image of the man who was being sought in connection with the attack and suspected of making nationality-based insults and inciting racial hatred. It emerged that, at the time of the attack, he was wearing a T-shirt featuring an eagle and the Polska Walczaca (‘Fighting Poland’) symbol from the World War II [1]. In recent years, patriotic imagery has increasingly been appropriated by far-right groups. On 18 July, it was announced



that officers from the Wrocław-Krzyki police station had identified the man and that *'further proceedings in the case are underway'*.

[1] Polska Walczaka: created in 1942 emblem of the Polish Underground State.

BIELSKO-BIALA. On 11 July 2026, on bus route no. 8, a passenger subjected two 11-year-old girls from Ukraine to vulgar and xenophobic abuse. The man shouted at them, *'You little sh*ts have grown up on our money. This is going to end soon, you'll f*ck off back there, to your f*cking Ukraine! [...] You! I know where you live! Where do you live? In Ukraine. Don't talk back, because you're not from here!'* The increasingly aggressive attacker then violated the bodily integrity of one of the girls and shouted at her, *'Don't touch?! And what about you? You're just a Ukrainian wh*re yourself. F*ck off back to Ukraine, you wh*re! Get the f*ck out of this country!'*

On 13 July, the attacker was arrested by the police. He turned out to be a 54-year-old employee of the Municipal Transport Company [MZK] in Bielsko-Biala. The company issued a statement, *'We do not and will not tolerate any manifestations of aggression, violence or discrimination. Therefore, we have decided to cease our cooperation with this employee. MZK in Bielsko-Biala and the City of Bielsko-Biala strongly condemn all behaviour motivated by hatred and prejudice'*. Malgorzata Mos-Brachowska, spokesperson for the Regional Public Prosecutor's Office in Bielsko-Biala, announced that the man had been charged with insulting three Ukrainian citizens, including two minors, on the grounds of their national origin, as well as with violating the bodily integrity of one of them. The perpetrator pleaded guilty.

The attack on the Ukrainian girls was recorded on a mobile phone by one of the Ukrainian girls and it became widely discussed in the media. Alongside numerous statements condemning violence against children, there were also comments justifying the attack or denying that the incident in Bielsko-Biala had even taken place. For some commentators, the incident became an opportunity to spread hatred against people from Ukraine. Examples included:

'A child is sitting there, it is not a Polish child, then an older man, a Polish man gets on a Polish bus. Didn't mum and dad have time because they were counting Polish donations teach their child that you give up your seat!' (Twitter/X, 13 July 2026)

Member of Polish Parliament **Konrad Berkowicz (Konfederacja, Nowa Nadzieja)** [1]: *'No. The attack on a Ukrainian girl is not the fault of «Braun, Mentzen, Czarnek» [2]. It is primarily the fault of Zelenskyy and his gang, who spit on Poles and glorify the murderers of Poles [3]. It is also the fault of our idiots in government, who, at the expense of Poles, give everything to the Ukrainian side for nothing. It is not the «right wing» that turns Poles against Ukrainians. It is primarily the Ukrainian side that does this'*. (Twitter/X, 13 July 2026; nearly 107,000 views within three weeks)

Tomasz Sommer, editor-in-chief of the biweekly *'Najwyższy Czas!'*: *'I see great mandatory outrage over a Pole who spoke badly to a Ukrainian girl. We must remember, however, that during the Volhynia crimes, Ukrainians not only spoke badly, but also straight away put people on pitchforks. That, however, is a fundamental difference'*. (Twitter/X, 13 July 2026)

In a second post, he wrote, *'So now we know. Instead of a «xenophobic act of hatred», we have a fifty-year-old who told two teenagers off for putting their feet on the seats. When they talked back, he exploded like an average Civic Coalition or Left [4] activist at pro-abortion demonstrations. He heard that the teenagers had a Ukrainian accent, so he went in that direction. And one of them, like a typical Polish feminist, started recording him and stirring things up when she realised that it could get big online. Future husbands – I would advise you to avoid this girl'*.

He also posted an AI-manipulated image of one of the Ukrainian girls, showing her smiling happily. (Twitter/X, 14 July 2026; nearly 252,000 views within three weeks)

Janusz Korwin-Mikke, far-right politician known for chauvinistic and pro-Russian statements: *'Every action produces a reaction. The Gang of Four – Misters Czarzasty, Kaczynski, Kosiniak-Kamysz and Tusk [5] – wanted to turn Poles into «Servants of the Ukrainian Nation» – so Poles are reacting. Even 11-year-old Ukrainian girls become victims. A little more pandering to Ukrainians and it will get worse!'* (Twitter/X, 14 July 2026)

In another post published on the same day, he wrote, *'And it turns out that this unbalanced man was not unbalanced at all but was provoked by two little sh*ts who thought they could put their feet on the seats and then talk back'*.

Lukasz Warzecha, a columnist for the weekly **'Do Rzeczy'**: *'If I were the man who abused the Ukrainian girls in Bielsko-Biala, I would hire a good lawyer and go medieval on those Aggressive Mice and similar people who carried out a public internet lynching based on a video showing the incident from one angle, even before an indictment had been issued, let alone a verdict'*. (Twitter/X, 14 July 2026; more than 222,000 views within three weeks)

Prof. Stanisław Zerko, employee of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznan and the Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia, and member of the committee supporting Karol Nawrocki's candidacy for President of Poland in the 2025 election: *'Once we forgive Ukrainian Nazis for the genocide, perhaps they will forgive us for insulting Ukrainian girls on a bus'*. (Twitter/X, 14 July 2026). He also wrote, *'Bullsh*t as the main projectile of the propaganda campaign of the entire government and pro-government media machine and its servant journalists, intended to announce to the whole world that «pogrom-like sentiments» prevail in a «browning» Poland. A masterpiece'*.

Rafal Otoka-Frackiewicz, former editor-in-chief of **'Uwazam Rze Historia'** historical monthly magazine and **Kukiz'15** parliamentary candidate [6] in 2015: *'Those little sh*ts from that bus [...] were little cynical, raised on impunity. They weren't little hooligans, they were chavs who did it deliberately. [...] Someone who attacks an older man is a chav'*. He also stated, *'Instead of bringing Poles here, the state brings in, some waste from different parts of the world where wars are constantly being fought'*. (YouTube channel **Super Ring**, belonging to the editorial team of **'Super Express'** popular daily, 15 July 2026; the video, entitled **'BUS CHAVS! A UKRAINIAN CAN GIVE POLE A BEATING!'**, had nearly 156,000 views within three weeks)

Rafal Ziemkiewicz, far-right propagandist: *'Cover-ups, little cover-ups... Two girls on a bus in Poznan [incorrect location – ed.] were attacked by some thug. Maybe they were, maybe they weren't, because I increasingly believe less and less in such things. [...] Maybe it was a hoax, maybe it was somehow edited, I don't know, it's difficult for me to make any judgement'*. (his own YouTube channel, 15 July 2026; more than 79,000 views within three weeks)

Pawel Abramczyk, whose Twitter/X profile description contains the racist slogan **'White Lives Matter'** and whose background photo shows a burning European Union flag; he has more than 10,000 followers: *'I wonder how many of you «stupid Poles» took part in the manipulation, provocation and allowed yourselves to be played by the Ukronazis?'* He also posted an AI-generated image based on a photograph of the attacked Ukrainian girl – in Abramczyk's version, the child is wearing a red-and-black dress [7] and holding a pitchfork and an axe in her hands. (Twitter/X, 16 July 2026; nearly 45,000 views within three weeks)

[1] **Konfederacja** (Confederation party) is an alliance of far-right organisations and comprises 2 political parties: **Nowa Nadzieja** (New Hope, radical right) – whose vice-president is Berkowicz, and **Ruch Narodowy** (National Movement, ethnonationalist).

[2] **Grzegorz Braun**: head of **Konfederacja Korony Polskiej (Confederation of the Polish Crown)**, Holocaust denier, promoter of conspiracy theories about Jews taking over Poland, mocking the victims of Nazi camps, calling for violence against LGBT people, and boasting about violently tearing down Ukrainian flags. **Slawomir Mentzen**: leader of **Nowa Nadzieja (New Hope)**: radical-right party. **Przemysław Czarnek**: current Prawo i Sprawiedliwość (PiS; Law and Justice, main opposition party) PM candidate in the general election of 2027.

[3] Referring to the **UPA (Ukrainian Insurgent Army)**, active during World War II and responsible for massacres of Poles in the 1940s.

[4] Civic Coalition – Koalicja Obywatelska, currently main ruling party. Left – Lewica, one of the current coalition parties.

[5] Leaders of four parties in the current government coalition.

[6] Kukiz'15 - a right-wing populist political group.

[7] The colours of the UPA.

WARSAW. On 14 July 2026, on route of the M2 metro line, two passengers, a man and a woman, mugged a young Ukrainian woman. A description of the incident was posted on Facebook in a residents' group called TARGOWEK BRODNO ZACISZE TeBeZeT: *'The event took place at around 1:30 p.m. on the M2 metro line, when getting off at Kondratowicza station. A tall, tattooed man (arms and legs), around 35, with a girl (a typical Karyna [1]), eating a pizza, were harassing one of the girls sitting opposite them on the metro (a Ukrainian), telling her to get off at the next station. When she refused, they ripped off her sweatshirt/jacket and ran out of the metro. Where is this heading, people?'* Most of the comments under the post condemned the aggressors, but some also expressed hostility towards Ukrainians, *'And I wonder whether it even happened at all... more and more trolls stirring things up and trying to set Poles against each other... and unfortunately we are falling for it like crazy... an example – young Ukrainian women who first spat at and insulted a bus driver and then recorded it, portraying themselves as victims..'* – this referred to the incident of 11 July in Bielsko-Biala: in reality, a 54-year-old male bus passenger verbally abused two 11-year-old Ukrainian girls and violated the bodily integrity of one of them.

[1] Slang word for a rude woman.

POZNAN. On 15 July 2026, Prof. **Stanisław Zerko**, employee of the Institute for Western Affairs in Poznan and the Polish Naval Academy in Gdynia, and member of the committee supporting Karol Nawrocki's candidacy for President of Poland in the 2025 election, published a series of shocking posts on Twitter/X mocking the tragic fate of refugee children. He used a photograph of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian refugee who drowned following a boat disaster off the coast of Turkey in 2015. The photograph of the child's body lying on a beach shocked public opinion around the world at the time and became a symbol of the humanitarian crisis. Zerko mockingly captioned the image, *'My eyes filled with mustard from emotion'*.

Zerko's contemptuous post was a response to an appeal for empathy towards Ukrainian refugee children, accompanied by a video showing a crying four-year-old boy at the Polish-Ukrainian border crossing in 2022, *'May your children never have to cry like this on foreign streets'*. The behaviour of the professor provoked outrage among many people who demanded that he remove the post, to which Zerko responded, *'Not in a thousand years. I am proud of this post'*. On 17 July, he shared the photo of deceased Alan Kurdi again and insulted the memory of the child by adding, *'Here, however, it was about achieving a photographic effect. A classic example of media manipulation'*.

On 18 July, Zerko once again published the photo of Alan's body lying on the beach and commented, *'A photo session with a dead child, for the purposes of Goebbels-style propaganda, intended to open the doors to Europe wide for illegal migrants. Disgusting'*.

As one commenter wrote, *'In the culture in which I was raised (and it seems to me that this is also true of most Poles), you do not make fun of someone's death'*.

LEGNICA. On 18 July 2026, an unidentified woman attacked a group of six 13- and 14-year-old girls from Ukraine in a playground on Polarna Street. The mother of two of the affected children (twins) described the incident, *'A woman approached them with her two daughters and told them, «You are in Poland, speak Polish». One of my daughters even apologised to her to avoid a conflict. Unfortunately, the woman was very aggressive from the beginning'*. The woman was apparently angered by the fact that the children were using a trampoline and by the fact that they were laughing. The mother of the twins described what happened next in detail, *'Suddenly, without any warning, she punched one of my daughters' friends in the neck. The girl fell to the ground. At the same time, my daughter was punched in the face. The woman even mocked the girl she had previously hit. A moment later, a Ukrainian boy approached, wanting to defend the children. He was also hit and suffered a broken nose. My other daughter dared to ask, «Why did you do that?» She replied: «Because you are from Ukraine»'*. The mother took a photograph of her daughter showing a mark on her cheek left by the punch. The incident was reported to the police. The Ukrainian mother whose children were injured has lived with her husband in Poland, Legnica, for five years. When the full-scale war began in 2022, they also brought their twin daughters to Poland. In her account, the woman also described other incidents, *'We have encountered offensive language and manifestations of xenophobia before, but physical violence against children crosses every boundary'*. She concluded bitterly, *'I don't know how this case will end. But when an adult beats children, it is something unimaginable'*.

Within two days, more than 7,000 comments were made under the Ukrainian woman's post on Facebook. Many of them questioned or mocked the reports of violence against the children and fuelled hostility towards Ukrainians. For example:

- *'F*ck off back home. There is love and understanding there and nobody hurts anybody'*.
- *'This is just another ordinary provocation. They are masters at this. Now they will write stories about «bad» Poles on a massive scale'*.
- *'I won't even mention Ukrainians threatening Poles with another Volhynia...'*
- *'Alright, what has it come to, we Poles really don't have bigger problems than «beating» Ukrainian children, hundreds of apologies already under the text alone, people, what's wrong with you, did anyone even check whether this isn't fake news?'*
- *'Don't make a fuss. Polish babies were nailed in their little heads by your compatriots, so don't get hysterical. If you don't like it, you always have a way out: nobody is forcing you to stay here'*.

On 22 July, the perpetrator, 26-year-old **Karolina O.**, was arrested by the police and brought before the Public Prosecutor. She was charged with *'discrimination, namely the use of violence against three teenagers on the grounds of their national origin, hitting them in the face and causing minor bodily injuries, which she committed for hooligan motives, that is, publicly and without reason, showing blatant disregard for the legal order. The suspect [...] admitted to hitting the children but denied acting out of xenophobic motives. She did not, however, deny telling the teenagers that they were behaving badly and that they were not on their own territory'*.

JELENIA GORA. On 26 July 2026, shocking, hate-filled comments were made on Facebook in response to a post published by the editorial team of the Nowiny Wschodnie (Eastern News) website. Under a post reporting that, as a result of a Russian attack on a supermarket in Chernihiv, *'two people, including a 10-year-old child, were killed'*, a flood of comments appeared

expressing satisfaction with what had happened and praising Putin. Here are some examples of such comments:

- *'Not enough dead ukry [1], Vladek [2], we want more'.*
- *'What do I care about those sh*tty ukrainian brats?'*
- *'That fascist country needs to be finished off properly'.*
- *'Well done Putin bravo'.*
- *'Burn and bombard, wipe out the Banderite scum'.*

Some users protested against the hateful anti-Ukrainian posts, for example: *'A child has died, and the Poles are cheering in the comments; half of them are bots, and the rest? A child has died in terrible circumstances; it had its whole life ahead of it'.*

[1] A Polish slur against Ukrainians.

[2] Diminutive of the name Vladimir [Putin].



KOBYLKA. On 28 July 2026, on a local train on the route from Warsaw to Tłuszcz, two men attacked a 16-year-old boy from Ukraine. They subjected him to vulgar abuse and made threats, including, *'You f*cking garbage!'* *'You c*nt, get off at this station, otherwise you're f*cked'*, *'You f*cking fa*got!'* The train manager decided to stop the train at Kobylka Ossow station and intervened to protect the teenager, physically blocking the attackers from reaching him. One of the perpetrators hit the conductor and grabbed him by his uniform. At that point, several other passengers forced the two aggressors off the train. The police were called to the scene.

Initially, the attackers were only fined for disturbing public order. However, after video footage documenting the attack appeared online, police officers from Kobylka and Wolomin, acting in cooperation with the Public Prosecutor's Office, arrested both men. The Wolomin District Public Prosecutor's Office charged them with using violence or threats for discriminatory reasons, as well as insulting and violating the bodily integrity of a public official. The Public Prosecutor's office additionally requested that both men be remanded in custody. On 31 July, the District Court in Wolomin rejected the request and the men were released.

ŁÓDŹ. On 3 August 2026, a video documenting an attack on a Ukrainian teenager by a passer-by was shared on Facebook. At a tram stop, the aggressor subjected the teenager to nationality-based verbal abuse. He shouted, *'F*ck Ukraine! F*ck you, c*nts! You're in my country, Poland. And why aren't you at war and fighting? You could have fought for your country, you c*nt!'* Witnesses recorded the incident on their phones. The attacker provocatively approached them and looked directly into the camera. A woman who was waiting at the stop helped the boy who had been attacked.



WARSAW. On 4 August 2026, during a broadcast on mainstream Polsat News TV channel, Member of Polish Parliament **Krzysztof Mulawa** [1] made offensive xenophobic comments about refugees from Ukraine, particularly children, whom he referred to as '*brats*'. During a discussion about the labour market, Mulawa stated, *'If the answer from politicians is simply to bring in immigrants who commit crimes*



and cause problems for us... For the slightest offence: off to Ukraine! Off to Ukraine!' The host of the programme, journalist Agnieszka Gozdyra, reacted to these hateful statements and addressed the **Konfederacja** MP, *'I pointed out your language... you referred to Ukrainian teenagers as «brats»...'* Mulawa replied self-assuredly, *'I confirm!'*

[Gozdyra] *'Which I consider outrageous'.*

[Mulawa] *'Why?'*

[Gozdyra] *'Because you are using degrading language'.*

[Mulawa] *'Applicable to their behaviour'.*

[Gozdyra] *'Do you know what you are doing in this way? And you are doing it openly'.*

[Mulawa] *'I am'.*

[Gozdyra] *'You are inciting hatred'.*

[1] Member of **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)**, nationalist far-right party, part of Konfederacja – **Confederation** bloc.

BYDGOSZCZ On 14 August 2026, in Spandowski Park on Unii Lubelskiej Street, two attackers, a woman accompanied by a man, attacked Ukrainian siblings: a 14-year-old girl and her 12-year-old brother. The incident was reported by the Consulate General of Ukraine in Gdansk, *'Two Ukrainian minors [...] were subjected to aggression by adults solely because they were speaking in Ukrainian to each other. The attackers (a man and a woman with a small dog) engaged not only in vulgar insults and criminal threats motivated by national hatred, but also in physical violence. They twisted the child's arm, destroyed a toy drone and threw its fragments at the boy, causing scratches'.* The police were notified of the incident. *'The proceedings concern an insult motivated by national origin'*, said Monika Chlebicz, spokesperson for the Bydgoszcz Voivodeship Police Headquarters. On 18 August, officers detained a 46-year-old woman and a 34-year-old man. The Bydgoszcz-Polnoc District Public Prosecutor's Office charged the woman with insulting the Ukrainian siblings and violating their bodily integrity in connection with their national origin. The man was questioned as a witness.



WARSAW On 19 August 2026, xenophobic statements were made during a live broadcast on mainstream Polsat News TV channel, featuring Member of Parliament **Marek Szewczyk** [1]. The discussion concerned an incident in Bielsko-Biala in which a man behaved aggressively

towards two 11-year-old girls from Ukraine. Szewczyk blamed the children, who had been the victims, for the incident. He stated, *'Ukrainians do things that provoke Poles...'* The host Agnieszka Gozdyra challenged him, *'The girl provoked a Pole? What could a girl provoke a Pole to do, what could she deserve...?'*

[Szewczyk] *'She provoked him into verbal attacks and aggression'.*

[Gozdyra] *'The girl provoked him, is that what you're saying?'*

[Szewczyk] *'Do you think it is impossible to provoke someone? Couldn't you provoke someone?'*

[Gozdyra] *'I believe, sir, that a mature, stable adult cannot be provoked by a twelve-year-old girl into calling her the worst names. [...] Are you saying that a girl can provoke an adult man?'*

[Szewczyk] *'Minors can also provoke certain types of aggression'.*

[1] Member of **Ruch Narodowy (National Movement)**, nationalist far-right parliamentary party (as part of Konfederacja – **Confederation** party).

WARSAW. On 25 August 2026, Member of Polish Parliament **Slawomir Mentzen (Konfederacja, head of Nowa Nadzieja [1])** uploaded an almost 50-minute video on his YouTube channel, devoted entirely to spreading xenophobic content. Among other things, he mocked the reaction to violence against Ukrainian children in Poland and claimed that Poles in Poland were the victims of persecution by Ukrainians. He said, *'Why is a Polish child in Poland, a victim of a Ukrainian, not a matter of concern to Donald Tusk, but only Ukrainian children? [...] The most important thing is that somewhere, someone pushed a Ukrainian'*, he sneered. He made his position clear and



played down the problem of hate-motivated violence, *'We want to look after the interests of Poles in Poland, not those of other nations [...]'. So, some thug beats someone up and the victim happens to be Ukrainian? It just happens'*. He went on to argue that *'Poles are being beaten and killed by Ukrainians'*, and also that *'Poles in Poland are treated worse than Ukrainians'*. He then openly called for discrimination against people of Ukrainian origin, *'I expect there to be Poles in the Polish government. I wouldn't want there to be Ukrainians in the Polish government; [I would like] Poles to work in the Polish civil service, not Ukrainians [...]'. It would be unacceptable for a minister's driver to be someone who isn't Polish. [...] There should be no Ukrainians in the Polish civil service at all'*. And he continued, *'I am talking about the growing aggression of Ukrainians towards Poles [...]'. Ukrainians are behaving badly in Poland'*. Referring to the deportations of Ukrainians who had broken the law, he shouted, *'More and more Ukrainians are being kicked out of Poland, and it's a very good thing they are!'* During his speech, he asked, *'What needs to be done so that Poles can feel at home in Poland, so that they don't have to fear that they might accidentally get punched in the face by a Ukrainian and then get into further trouble because of it? [...] Other ethnic groups are treated better in Poland [than Poles]'*. He concluded his entire tirade with a nationalist appeal, *'In Poland, Poles should be the ones who benefit most of all; that is what the Polish state is for – to ensure Poles have a better life. And if anyone doesn't like it, if the fact that Poles are meant to have it good in Poland doesn't sit well with any other ethnic group, then the message is simple: no one is forcing you to be in Poland [...], no one is forcing you to live in Poland; go off somewhere else! [...] Poland is a place where mainly Poles live; Poland wasn't*

designed as a place where you have to live too, really [...]. If this atmosphere created by Poles is so unpleasant, so bad [...], if you're starting to feel afraid, if you're afraid to speak your own language, then go somewhere else [...]. Poles live in Poland [...], you must understand that this is our country, where our nation lives; you are not part of our nation, this is not your country, so if you don't like it here, go somewhere else'.

Mentzen's channel is one of the largest YouTube channels in Poland (it has over 1 million subscribers). Within two days, his video had been viewed by over 100,000 users. Among the anti-Ukrainian comments, there were also anti-Semitic remarks, such as: *'We'll end up in the same situation with aid to Ukraine as we did with aid to the Jews in the 2WW'.*

[1] **Nowa Nadzieja** (**New Hope**) is a radical-right organisation, together with **Ruch Narodowy** (**National Movement**, ethnonationalist) comprising the Konfederacja (**Confederation**) parliamentary party.

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