

# THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

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## Resolution 471 (2021)<sup>1</sup> The role of local and regional authorities with regard to the situation of LGBTI people in Poland

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,

1. Bearing in mind Congress [Resolution 380 \(2015\)](#) and [Recommendation 370 \(2015\)](#) on guaranteeing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people's rights: a responsibility for Europe's towns and regions;

2. Bearing in mind Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2010\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity;

3. Bearing in mind the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights' [Memorandum on the stigmatisation of LGBTI people in Poland](#), December 2020;

4. Recalling the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which call, *inter alia* for the empowerment and promotion of the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status;

5. Recalling the role of local and regional authorities in ensuring human rights for the members of their communities;

6. Noting that since 2019, over 90 regions, counties or municipalities in Poland have passed resolutions declaring themselves free from so-called "LGBT ideology" or have adopted "local government charters on the rights of the family";

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1. Debated and adopted by the Congress on 16 June 2021, 2nd sitting (see Document [CG\(2021\)40-19](#), explanatory memorandum), rapporteur: Andrew BOFF, United Kingdom (R, ECR).

7. Noting that a number of such resolutions and declarations have been annulled by the administrative courts on the grounds that they were incompatible with rights enshrined in Polish and international law;

8. Concerned about the negative impact such resolutions and charters may have on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Poland, their safety and well-being, and in particular on young people;

9. Concerned about the polarised division within Polish communities on the issue and the increasingly hostile climate against the LGBTI community in Poland;

10. Concerned about the increase in anti-LGBTI crimes and the violence against LGBTI people;

11. Welcoming the efforts of some Polish municipalities to foster more inclusive societies through the adoption of policies supporting LGBTI citizens or through the establishment of a coalition of cities against discrimination;

12. Taking into account the Current Affairs Committee's report on the fact-finding mission on LGBTI issues in Poland, which was held remotely on 2 and 3 November 2020;

13. Calls on local and regional authorities in Poland to:

*a.* withdraw "anti-LGBTI ideology" resolutions and analogous texts regardless of their title;

*b.* protect the rights of minority and vulnerable groups, including LGBTI people, by developing and revising the necessary policies as well as ensuring efficient enforcement mechanisms;

*c.* invest financial and human resources to guarantee the physical and mental integrity of LGBTI people amid growing hate speech, especially as regards children and youth;

*d.* develop partnerships with other authorities, their associations and civil society, and open consultations to jointly develop informed and inclusive non-discrimination plans;

14. Encourages Polish associations of local and regional authorities to take the lead and act as platforms for dialogue among local and regional authorities about the safety and well-being of LGBTI citizens in their communities;

15. Resolves to continue following closely the state of progress of the situation of LGBTI people in Poland and the role of local and regional authorities in this respect.