

To the President of the European Parliament

To the President of the European Commission

To the European Equality Commissioner

To the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

To the President of the Italian Council of Ministers

To the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Government

To the Italian Minister for European Affairs

To the Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities

Polish women need our help!

The help of all the European institutions because the situation in Poland is precipitating.

On 22 October 2020, Poland's Constitutional Tribunal has ruled that abortion due to foetal defects is unconstitutional. The measure comes in a climate of growing hostility towards women's revendications of equal social dignity, accompanied by a significant weakening of the most elementary, basic guarantees of the rule of law. All this is happening during the second wave of the Covid-19 crisis, a time that makes it even more difficult to express dissent, due to citizenry's impossibility to move and meet.

Despite this, women and men took to the streets peacefully to protest against the violation of their rights, against the prohibition of abortion even in case of fetus severe malformation.

The Polish government sent police to crack down on protests during the march to the home of the leader of the nationalist party, Vice Premier Jaroslaw Kaczynski, while the next day another march was dissolved with tear gas. Different forms of turmoil have occurred in all the cities of the country.

Since 2004, Poland has been a Member State of the European Union and, as such, bound by Articles 2 and 7 of the Treaty on European Union. Poland must respect "human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities", values that "are common to the Member States in a society characterized by pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men".

The right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy is recognized in almost all Eu Member States under conditions that are much less restrictive than those now established in Poland. In particular, in Italy, a law on voluntary termination of pregnancy has existed for 42 years and, although a full guarantee and protection of its very effectiveness still appears necessary, it now represents an indispensable milestone of freedom and equal social dignity for women.

The conduct of Poland in relation to the right to voluntarily terminate a pregnancy and, more generally, in relation to the very stability of democracy and the rule of law, appears to be increasingly worrying, and likely to undermine the standard of protection of fundamental rights required by European Union membership. In order to bring them to the European leaders, let's take up the urgent appeal of Polish men and women who are asking for help from the European Union and make their requests our own.

- To participate in an audition to the European Parliament;
- To be heard by the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, with the aim of reaching an overall Eu resolution condemning what is happening in Poland;
- To trigger international support in favor of the protests;
- To call upon Member States to welcome Polish women who can't exercise their legal right to have an abortion in their domestic hospitals (by also covering all the costs);
- To grant economic support for women's rights associations and to allow them to continue their general assistance, including legal;
- To issue a resolution to deny European funding to Member states that violate human rights (such as Poland).

We also ask the Italian Government to express a clear condemnation of the declarations and measures adopted by the Polish Prime minister as well as to engage in bilateral diplomatic outreach towards the European institutions to ensure full respect of the European Union fundamental rights in Poland.

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UDI – Unione donne in Italia

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Le sconfinare

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Le Nove

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Il giusto mezzo

EDGE – Excellence & Diversity by GLBT Executives

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