



Dear Sisters from Feministische Partei DIE FRAUEN!

As you already know, situation for women in Poland is very difficult and tense.

The “Stop Abortion” civic committee has almost succeeded in submitting a draft law introducing a complete ban on abortion and a new category into the criminal code – “prenatal murder”, which will introduce penalty of 3 to 5 years in prison for women, doctors and anyone helping a woman to perform an abortion. If abortion is unintentional the penalty will be up to 3 years. The Court will have the possibility to drop charges. In the rationale, the authors of the draft law quote the teachings of Polish Pope, John Paul II, refer to the Polish constitution which grants legal protection to all human beings (it doesn't however clarify when human life begins) and also selectively quote the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Additionally they also propose to replace the term “human fetus” with “conceived child” where possible. The draft law doesn't at all refer to the protection of woman's life, health and wellbeing.

This anti-choice initiative is currently waiting for the decision of the Marshall of the Sejm on whether it will be registered. The deadline for decision is Monday, April 11th. If successful, the “Stop Abortion” committee will then have 3 months to collect 100 000 signatures to ensure that the law will be debated in the Polish Parliament.

Only recently Polish Prime Minister, Beata Szydło, said that she supports this initiative and “hopes for a reasonable voice on behalf of the episcopate to ensure a substantive discussion”. On Sunday, April 3rd, the statement of the Polish episcopate was read aloud in all churches in Poland. The signatories of this document state that life begins from the moment of conception and ends with natural death. They called upon all people, Parliamentarians and policy makers to ensure legal protection of unborn children.

The anti-choice community, with great support from the Catholic and conservative groups, is currently very strong as the current government consists mainly of politicians with conservative attitudes. (info from <https://goo.gl/h8xSE2>)

We are working now on many fields to affect the Polish government and parliament. One of the



action is a big protest in Warsaw on 9th of April. As a Women Party we will be there too.

However we would like to ask you for **a support letter for Polish women**. We need your strong support and assistance now.

As a member of European Coalition of Feministic Parties we would like to arrange a conference of feministic organisations to unite and to have a chance to learn from each other. At the same time it would be good idea to make an annual meeting of European Coalition of Feministic Parties in Gdańsk/Poland instead of, how it was planed, in Spain. We should also invite new feministic parties from Norway and France and members of EU Parliament. Arrange a round table of feministic organisations and make a common position and action plan. What do you think about that?

We are looking forward to hearing from you,

Head of Partia Kobiet,

Iwona Piątek