



LICENSOR OF EUROPRIDE

**EUROPEAN  
PRIDE** ORGANISERS  
ASSOCIATION

Brussels, 8 April 2019

**Tomasz Budaz**  
**President of the City of Gniezno**  
**Poland**

Dear President Budaz

### **Marsz Równości w Gnieźnie**

We write to you to express our deep concern over your decision to ban the Marsz Równości due to take place in your city this weekend. Your decision breaches fundamental freedoms and human rights of LGBTI people in Gniezno, and presents a poor impression of Poland across the world.

As you will be aware, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in 2007 in the case of *Poland v Backowski* that the banning of a Pride march in Warsaw was a breach of Articles 11, 13 and 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, Article 57 of the Constitution of the Republic of Poland also provides protection for citizens and allows them the freedom to organise peaceful assembly.

Peaceful, successful Pride marches have taken place in Poland for many years, including EuroPride Warsaw in 2010. There is no justification for restricting the right of LGBTI people in Gniezno – or anywhere in Poland – to come together peacefully and to hold a Pride event. The only possible reason for attempting to ban such an event is homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.

**We urge you to reconsider your illegal decision, allow the event to take place this weekend, and commit to ensuring that police and other authorities provide appropriate protection to ensure the safety of the participants.**

Yours faithfully

Kristine Garina  
PRESIDENT