

28.06.2020, Tarnów

We, "Tęczowy Tarnów" (The Rainbow Tarnów), want to address all your concerns and questions, when it comes to the partnership between our Counties.

We've asked you (in our e-mail from 02 March 2020), the Pfaffenhofen local authorities, for definite reaction to anti-LGBT+ resolutions in our County, because human rights should be our common value and should never be a subject of any discussion. Unfortunately, these rights are being violated by our Tarnow County Council and by Polish government.

It was brought to our attention, that some of you think, that because of the II WW you are in no position to get involved in any situations in Poland. Actually, it's quite the opposite. The main reason we all learn about the history is to avoid making the same mistakes over and over again. And who knows better than Poles and Germans, where the hate speech and dehumanization of some groups of people can lead us? So, especially because of our past, we should do whatever we can, to stop the Nazi narration pointed at LGBT+ community in our region.

We talk every day to LGBT+ people from our county, and we hear many dramatic stories about the violence they experience at school, at home, on the street. They live in constant fear. They can't openly be who they really are. Coming out is an act of heroism. We can't look away and leave them alone. We need your help!

Breaking or suspending partnership by Pfaffenhofen is extremely important here, in Tarnów County. It would be a sign for all Polish local authorities, who accepted those homophobic laws, that the world is watching and that it's unacceptable. Suspending partnership would give them opportunity to think it over once again and would give them a chance to step back and withdraw these harmful resolutions.

At the beginning of this year, there were a few cases of suspended/ broken partnerships between foreign cities and Polish counties or towns that passed anti-LGBT+ resolutions. Polish media were talking about it, there was a big discussion in Poland about it. And it helped a lot, because last year local councils were passing these harmful laws easily, but this year many regions refused to pass them on, because they were scared of losing benefits, that foreign partnerships give to their citizens.

And also, that would be a great support for all LGBT+ people in Poland (especially teenagers). A sign, that someone cares and sees their struggle. And a big help for all Polish LGBT+ activists and allies, to show that no one can violate the human rights and that we're not hysterical or "overreacting".

We really count on you!

Yours sincerely,

Greta Pękała

Zuzanna Iwaniec

Monika Bujak