



**Statement on the public debate on migrants
October 6, 2023**

We are concerned about aggressive speech and fueling prejudice against migrants that is becoming more and more visible in the public debate. Sharing the concern of all fellow citizens for the security of our country, and therefore also for safe borders, we want to emphasize that every person deserves respect regardless of their citizenship, origin, skin color, religion or other individual characteristics. Guided by the message common to the three great Abrahamic religions, we believe that any stranger whose health or life are at risk must receive aid from competent government institutions. Especially one who is seeking refuge from persecution or is fleeing a war-torn country.

There are thousands of migrants of various faiths, nationalities and cultures living among us. For many, Poland has become home. They deserve respect and understanding - just like generations of Poles who sought a better, safe life for themselves and their children in Western Europe and the Americas. We consider it unacceptable to demonize migrants for political purposes. Therefore, we call on all those who are active in political life and the public debate not to instrumentalize refugees for immediate political or social purposes. Poland needs a reasonable and humane migration policy, not hatred towards strangers.

Imam Rafał Berger, Common Council of Catholics and Muslims, Co-President from the Muslim side

Dr. Ewa Józwiak, Editor-in-chief, "Jednota" quarterly, Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland

Dr. Michał Klinger, Christian Orthodox theologian

Rabbi Małgorzata Kordowicz, Jewish Community of Warsaw

Prof. Stanisław Krajewski, Jewish Co-Chair of the Polish Council of Christians and Jews

Mufti Tomasz Miśkiewicz, Muslim Mufti in the Republic of Poland

Zbigniew Nosowski, Editor-in-chief, "Więź" quarterly

Dr. Sebastian Rejak, Chief Development & External Relations Officer, Jewish Community Center Kraków

Bp. Jerzy Samiec, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of the Republic of Poland

Prof. Agata Skowron-Nalborczyk, Common Council of Catholics and Muslims, Co-President from the Catholic side

Rev. Prof. Andrzej Szostek, President, the Catholic University of Lublin (1998-2004)