



Statement on the COVID-19 pandemic

February 22, 2021

For almost a year now, we have lived in a state of pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus. The virus has caused the death of two and a half million people globally, including around forty thousand in Poland. However, we are not powerless in our fight against the pandemic. Thousands of physicians, nurses, and infectious diseases experts support us and are saving our health and our lives. The gratitude and admiration we have for them are difficult to express with words. Our faith and our convictions lead us to trust those who, using all available tools, are taking the necessary steps to stop the pandemic. We owe them our daily prayers and express gratitude to the Creator for giving us the wisdom that makes us able to effectively heal the sick and prevent the spread of the pandemic.

We agree that following the recommendations of physicians and institutions established to combat biological threats is a moral imperative - not only today, but today in particular. We are also aware of the concerns many people have about the vaccine against the COVID-19 virus. It is our deepest conviction, based on a statement of the Polish Academy of Sciences, "vaccination is the only rational choice thanks to which we will be able to exit the pandemic faster, protect the life and health of millions of people, and reduce the economic and social crises." We, members of the Community of Conscience - A Coalition of Mutual Respect, have already submitted requests to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and we encourage our fellow citizens to do so. We call on everyone – guided by their own good and that of their neighbors – to make rational choices based on the knowledge and recommendations of physicians and medical institutions.

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

Dr. Ewa Józwiak, Evangelical Reformed Church in Poland, President of Synod

Rabbi Małgorzata Kordowicz, Jewish Community of Warsaw

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

Mufti Tomasz Miśkiewicz, Muslim Mufti in the Republic of Poland

Zbigniew Nosowski, Polish Council of Christians and Jews, Christian Co-Chair

Rev. Prof. Henryk Paprocki, Orthodox Christian Faculty, University of Białystok

Dr. Sebastian Rejak, Acting Director, AJC Central Europe

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)