

## **International Day for Tolerance November 16, 2020**

On the International Day for Tolerance, established by the UN General Assembly at the initiative of UNESCO in 1995, we are recalling an excerpt from the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance, signed by UNESCO member states, and at the same time establishing this international holiday:

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty, it is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.”

Today, we, the authorities of Polish and foreign cities and towns, would like to show our solidarity with all those who are struggling with exclusion, discrimination and unequal treatment on a daily basis. Those whose voice requires strengthening, but also those who fight for their rights with determination, becoming the target of verbal attacks, but recently also of physical attacks.

We want to show that every citizen of our local homelands has the same rights and obligations, regardless of their nationality, religion, political views or sexual orientation, and that delimiting zones free from our fellow citizens or dehumanising some of them is in clear contradiction to European values.

City and Town Mayors:

Rafał Trzaskowski Mayor of Warsaw