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**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection**  
*Janusz KOCHANOWSKI*

RPO-R-072-20/08

00-090 Warsaw Phone: +48 22 635 42 46  
Al. Solidarności 77 Fax: +48 22 827 64 53

His Excellency

Mr Ric Todd

Ambassador for the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Al. Róż 1

00-556 Warsaw

*Dear Ambassador,*

When Giles Coren, in 26 July edition of *TheTimes* in an article "Two waves of immigration, Poles apart," wrote the now infamous phrase "We Corens are here, now, because the ancestors of these Poles now going home used to amuse themselves at Easter by locking Jews in the synagogue and setting fire to it", I felt disgusted by mixture of the columnist's viciousness and utter ignorance. Personally, as an admirer of British culture and civilization, I find it very difficult to believe that such an insulting and unjust use of freedom of speech has in fact taken been permitted to take place.

My constitutional responsibilities as a Commissioner for the Protection of Civil Rights of the Republic of Poland, however, urge me to adopt a clear and official position towards this brutal, misinformed, factually incorrect and unjust assault on the citizens of my country. The context, and the importance of the paper which has published Mr. Coren's article may indicate an extremely dangerous tendency in creating an attitude of xenophobia and hatred towards Poles, whose condition as economic emigrants in many countries, including the United Kingdom, is within my particular interest as an ombudsman. The matter becomes even more sensitive because of its European dimension, and EU's commitment to fight racism and xenophobia in the European labour market.

Before any further and official steps are taken, I would be very much interested to hear about your reaction to the above-mentioned publication, and actions which are taken to prevent such acts of verbal aggression against a country and its citizens in the future.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Janusz Kochanowski*