



*nederlandse vereniging tot integratie
van homoseksualiteit* **COC Haaglanden**

Scheveningseveer 7
2514 HB Den Haag

To: Prime Minister of Poland Mr Donald Tusk
Kancelaria Prezesa Rady Ministrów
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warszawa
Poland

telefoon (070) 365 90 90
fax (070) 362 02 04
info@cochaaglanden.nl
www.cochaaglanden.nl

CC: Polish Ombudsman dr Janusz Kochanowski
Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection
Aleja Solidarności 77
00 - 090 Warszawa
Poland

postbank 643939

Governor Mr Rafał Jurkowlanec
Lower Silesian Governor's Office
pl. Powstancow Warszawy 1
50-951 Wroclaw
Poland

BIURO RZECZNIKA PRAW OBYWATELSKICH	
WPŁ.	2009 -10- 2 8
ZAL.	3 / 3 NR.....

We, the regional Dutch Gay Union COC Haaglanden, situated in The Hague, International City of Peace and Justice, would like to express our support for the struggle of the Polish national Gay Union 'Kampania Przeciw Homofobii (KPH)' for the legalization of same-sex marriages in Poland, as was expressed during this year's Warsaw Gay Pride and will be proclaimed again during the first Wroclaw 'March for Tolerance' on 24 October 2009, in which a delegation of COC Haaglanden will participate.

The main theme of this march will be a call to the government of Poland to create a 'civil unions' bill for same sex couples. It is well known in the Netherlands, in the other member countries of the European Union and among most members of the European Parliament that nowadays there is no legislation for same sex couples in Poland. Same sex couples do not exist in the Polish law system. Partners have no basic rights that the government guarantees to heterosexual families, which - according to us - is in violation of the EU-charter, which was signed by your country, upon admittance to the EU. During the past years the Polish Gay community has done its utmost to persuade the Polish government to start a political debate over the project of civil unions in Poland, however with no effect until now.

We want to ask you to open the public debate on such an important issue as the right to same-sex marriage based on the constitutional principal of equality. It is our belief that only through free and public debate with no holds barred these fundamental issues can be resolved. A belief that has proved its value with the development of the legalization of same-sex marriage in the Netherlands. As you probably know, allowing for same-sex marriages has proven to be a very successful implementation of the principle of equality in our country. Since April 2001 thousands of homosexual couples in the Netherlands have used their right to have their personal and binding commitment recognized by the government, with full legal status including the possibilities for adoption and legal guardianship, and with the full symbolism that is embodied in the institution of marriage. We sincerely hope the same will hold for the development of equality in your country.

Yours respectfully,
On behalf of COC Haaglanden

Henk van de Wetering-Flendrie
executive director



Amsterdam,

14 oktober 2009

Dear friends at KPH Wroclaw,

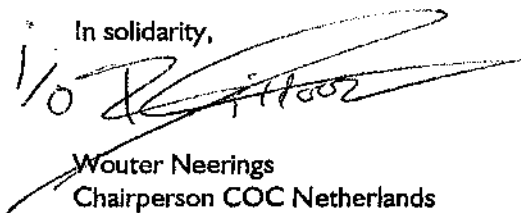
With this letter I want to wish you a wonderful First edition of the Wroclaw Pride for Tolerance, which is taking place during your sixth Festival for LGBT's and friends. COC Netherlands will be celebrating with you in heart and mind, and we are happy that our member organisation COC Haaglanden will join your festivities.

COC Netherlands wholeheartedly supports KPH's call for the recognition of partnership rights in Poland. Whilst same sex partners have the right to marry in the Netherlands for a decade now – we continue seeing examples of countries in which equal rights for same sex couples are being denied. This denial is the ultimate rejection of the existence of love between two people – something which is hard to understand and unacceptable. The role of the state is not to decide who we love, but it is to protect the rights of people who are in love.

The ideological moral authority limiting 'our rights' is often based on ideas that the concept of family needs to be respected, ideas that same sex relationships harm traditional values, or on religious interpretations. None of these ideas should prevent us from advocating for equality. We know that eventually only the moral rightness that was commonly agreed will prevail: those that are defined in human rights language. With principles of equality before the law, non-discrimination and universality, your government will one day recognize that love is not their affair. The governments responsibility is just to ensure the application of human rights principles. This understanding will make their lives easier, as well as ours.

I wish you a happy Pride and Festival!

In solidarity,



Wouter Neerings
Chairperson COC Netherlands



To: Prime Minister of Poland Mr Donald Tusk
Kancelaria Prezesa Rady Ministrów
00-583 Warszawa
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
Poland

CC: Polish Ombudsman dr Janusz Kochanowski
Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection
Aleja Solidarności 77
00 - 090 Warszawa
Poland

Governor Mr Rafał Jurkowlaniec
Lower Silesian Governor's Office
pl. Powstancow Warszawy 1
50-951 Wroclaw
Poland

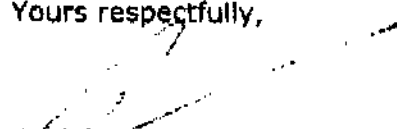
20 October 2009

Dear Prime Minister Mr Donald Tusk,
dr. Janusz Kochanowski,
Governor Mr Rafał Jurkowlaniec,

We, the Dutch Socialist Party, known in The Netherlands as the SP, would like to express our support for KPH's struggle for legalization of same-sex marriages in Poland. We would like to inform you as well about the situation in The Netherlands.

We want to ask you to open the public debate on such an important issue as the right to same-sex marriage based on the constitutional principal of equality. It is our belief that only through free and public debate with no holds barred these fundamental issues can be resolved. A belief that has proved its value with the development of the legalization of same-sex marriage in the Netherlands. As you probably know, allowing for same-sex marriages has proven to be a very successful implementation of the principle of equality in our country. Some years ago, judges in our country have declined the responsibility for this decision and have referred it back to the legislator. The process of legislation was finished in December 2000. Since April 2001 thousands of homosexual couples in the Netherlands have used their right to have their personal and binding commitment recognized by the government, with full legal status including the possibilities for adoption and legal guardianship, and with the full symbolism that is embodied in the institution of marriage. Equally important is the notion that even though homosexual couples are now allowed to marry, many of them prefer a civil union, as do many heterosexuals. I sincerely hope the same will hold for the development of equality in your country.

Yours respectfully,


Socialist Party of The Netherlands
Dennis de Jong, MEP

To: Prime Minister of Poland Mr Donald Tusk
Kancelaria Prezesa Rady Ministrów
00-583 Warszawa
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
Poland



CC: Polish Ombudsman dr Janusz Kochanowski
Office of the Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection
Aleja Solidarności 77
00 - 090 Warszawa
Poland

Governor Mr Rafał Jurkowlaniec
Lower Silesian Governor's Office
pl. Powstancow Warszawy 1
50-951 Wrocław
Poland

Dear Prime Minister Mr Donald Tusk,
dr. Janusz Kochanowski,
Governor Mr Rafał Jurkowlaniec,

We, the Dutch Labour Party, known in The Netherlands as the Partij van de Arbeid, would like to express our support for KPH's struggle for legalization of same-sex marriages in Poland. We would like to inform you as well about the situation in The Netherlands.

We want to ask you to open the public debate on such an important issue as the right to same-sex marriage based on the constitutional principal of equality. It is our belief that only through free and public debate with no holds barred these fundamental issues can be resolved. A belief that has proved its value with the development of the legalization of same-sex marriage in the Netherlands. As you probably know, allowing for same-sex marriages has proven to be a very successful implementation of the principle of equality in our country. Some years ago, judges in our country have declined the responsibility for this decision and have referred it back to the legislator. The process of legislation was finished in December 2000. Since April 2001 thousands of homosexual couples in the Netherlands have used their right to have their personal and binding commitment recognized by the government, with full legal status including the possibilities for adoption and legal guardianship, and with the full symbolism that is embodied in the institution of marriage. Equally important is the notion that even though homosexual couples are now allowed to marry, many of them prefer a civil union, as do many heterosexuals. I sincerely hope the same will hold for the development of equality in your country.

Yours respectfully,


Sander Dijkshuis
The Dutch Labor Party