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COUNTERACTING HATE SPEECH AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE

Humanity in Action Poland
Pilot Project

HUMANITY IN
ACTION
POLAND

WHO IS
Asking? ?



HUMANITY IN ACTION POLAND FELLOWSHIP 2014

I. HATE SPEECH AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE IN POLAND

Freedom of speech and expression are fundamental human rights that have found their legal manifestation within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the European Convention on Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950), and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2009). These freedoms are guarantees for a pluralistic society and for the concept of citizenship in a committed democracy.

During their schooling, 91% of all respondents in Poland had heard or seen negative comments or conduct because a schoolmate was perceived to be LGBT.
(EU LGBT Survey 2013, respondents identified as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender)

After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1991 and the birth of democracy in Poland, freedom of speech and its limitations also became an issue in the country. **Identity-based hate speech against LGBT and non-heterosexual people** has become widespread and severe.

Important questions arise in modern democratic societies about the **limitations on the freedom of speech**. Should there be limits on this fundamental freedom? To what extent should hateful speech be tolerated?

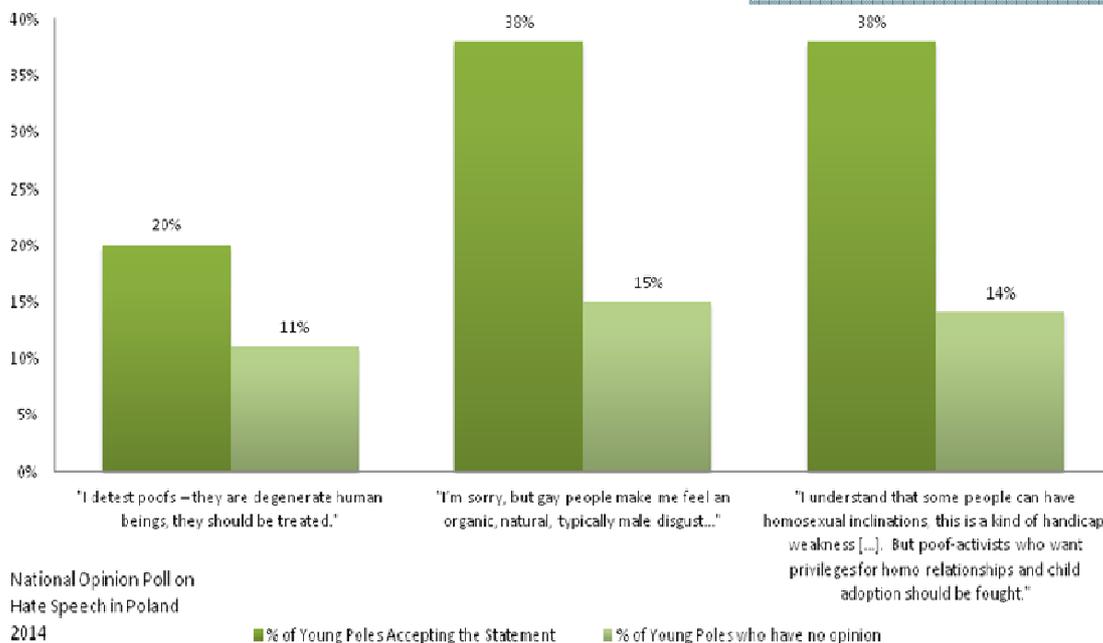
“Hate speech covers all forms of expressions which **spread, incite, promote or justify** racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-semitism or other forms of hatred based on intolerance.”

(Council of Europe)



Homophobic hate speech is encountered by young people mainly on the **Internet (77%)** and with **friends (65%)** (National Opinion Poll on Hate Speech in Poland 2014).

Forms of homophobic hate speech include direct speech and also indirect use of speech through online and offline media.



Hate speech against LGBT and non-heterosexual people receives the **highest acceptance among Poles** when compared to hate speech against other stigmatized groups such as Jews, Ukrainians, Romani people, Black People, and Muslims.

(National Opinion Poll on Hate Speech in Poland 2014)

II. INNOVATIVE CAMPAIGNS COUNTERACTING HATE SPEECH AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Innovative Strategies of counteracting hate speech against LGBT in various countries:

Legal Videos/Short Films
 Change EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS
 Memorial Days
 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS



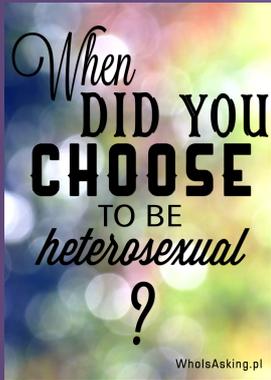
Poster Campaigns
 Art
 Projects



III. THE ROLE OF REFLECTION IN OUR CAMPAIGN TO COUNTERACT HATE SPEECH AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE (PART 1)

In an effort to counteract homophobia and transphobia in Warsaw, our team developed a campaign focused on the **self-reflection** about sexuality and gender identity.

Through the visually-driven medium of street art, we drove people to ask themselves questions like...



In the spirit of curiosity and questioning, ...

... we named our campaign:

WholsAsking?



Our Strategy:

Questioning existing beliefs about gender identity and sexual orientation

III. THE ROLE OF REFLECTION IN OUR CAMPAIGN TO COUNTERACT HATE SPEECH AGAINST LGBT PEOPLE (PART 2)

With a topic as sensitive as gender and sexuality, we believe that the best way to begin counteracting prejudice and hate speech is to **encourage curiosity and reflection**, to carefully break open the taboo, and to address the lack of knowledge among the general public about this topic by simply providing information.



WHO IS ASKING?

PAGES

About Us

Campaign Photos

Sources

www.WholsAsking.com

Our street posters and graffiti directed people to our **social media campaign online** through which they can learn more about gender and sexuality.

tumblr.

facebook



TAGS

#whoisasking

#endhomophobia

#nohatespeech

WWW.WHOLASASKING.COM

IV. CAMPAIGN IMPACT

In just a couple of weeks, we were able to reach thousands of people by bringing our message directly to the city of Warsaw. Our website and Facebook page can be a source of information.



We hope that we have stirred questions in people's minds and helped to encourage a deeper understanding of sexuality and gender, and that this will help to dispel the misconceptions that give rise to so much hate speech.

facebook

Post Reach

1.7K Total Reach
▲100% from last week

674

Post Reach
▲100%



06/20/2014
4:28 pm



Show your support and promote better understanding of LGBT issues by reusing and



313



65
4



www.WhoIsAsking.pl



800 Views

38 %

Polish

34 %

English

11 %

German

average
session
duration:
5 min 14
seconds



V. SOURCES

Documents

M. Bilewicz, M. Marchlewska, W.S.M. Winiewski (2014), *Mowa nienawiści – Raport z badań sondażowych*, Warszawa, Fundacja im. Stefana Batorego.

(http://www.batory.org.pl/upload/files/Programy%20dotacyjne/Obywatele%20dla%20Demokracji/Mowa_Nienawisci_raport.pdf)

P. Górska, M. Mikołajczak (2014), *Postawy wobec osób homoseksualnych*, Warszawa, Centrum Badań nad Upředzeniami.

(http://cbu.psychologia.pl/uploads/f_winiewski/PPS2%20raporty/Postawy%20wobec%20os%C3%B3b%20homoseksualnych%20PG%20MM%20ST%20poprawiony.pdf)

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2013), *EU LGBT Survey – European Union lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survey*, Luxembourg, FRA.

- Results at a Glance: http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu-lgbt-survey-results-at-a-glance_en.pdf
- Survey Data: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/event/2013/presenting-findings-largest-ever-lgbt-hate-crime-and-discrimination-survey>
- Overview of FRA activities on the fundamental rights of LGBT persons: <http://fra.europa.eu/en/theme/lgbt>

M. Makuchowska, M. Pawłega (2012), *Situation of LGBT Persons in Poland – 2010 and 2011 Report*, Warsaw, KPH.

EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (2009), *Hate Speech and Hate Crimes against LGBT Persons*, Luxembourg, FRA. (http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/1226-Factsheet-homophobia-hate-speech-crime_EN.pdf)

ILGA Europe on Fighting Hate Speech and Hate Crime against LGBT (EU): http://www.ilga-europe.org/home/issues/hate_crime_hate_speech

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HUMANITY IN ACTION

2014

Useful Websites

Kampania Przeciw Homofobii (PL): <http://www.kph.org.pl/>

Lambda Warszawa (PL): <http://www.lambdawarszawa.org/>

No Hate Speech Movement (Europe): <http://www.nohatespeechmovement.org/>

Human Rights Campaign (US): www.hrc.org/ / www.hrc.org/CallItOut/ / www.welcomingschools.org

GLSEN (US): <http://www.glsen.org/> / <http://action.glsen.org/page/s/selfies> / <http://www.thinkb4youspeak.com/> / <http://glsen.org/nonamecallingweek> / <http://glsen.org/safespace>

BeLonGTo (IR): <http://belongto.org/>

LeedsUniUnion LGBT (UK): <http://www.leedsuniversityunion.org.uk/campaigns/lgbthistorymonth/>

Lesben- und Schwulenverband (D): <http://www.lsvd.de> / <http://www.artikeldrei.de/> / <http://www.100mensch.de/>

ISMSS (CA): <http://www.nohomophobes.com/#!/today/>

NOH8 (US): <http://www.noh8campaign.com/>

It Gets Better Project: <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>



Julia, Adrienne and Kathrin
(at the Equality Parade in
Warsaw, Poland, June 2014)