



**Statement by the Community of Conscience – A Coalition for Mutual Respect
on the Growing Wave of Hostility toward Ukrainians
August 6, 2026**

We are witnessing an alarming shift in attitudes toward Ukraine, and especially toward Ukrainian refugees living in Poland. From February 2022 onward, for a considerable period we saw widespread solidarity with those resisting the Russian invasion, deep compassion for those fleeing the war, and a strong willingness to support refugees. Over time, these attitudes naturally weakened, as such collective mobilization does not last indefinitely.

What has emerged, however, is something far more concerning: public expression of hostility toward Ukrainians, calls to expel refugees from Poland, and violent attacks against individuals and institutions. Recently, these developments have intensified. Slogans questioning the legitimacy of Ukraine's defense and claiming that "this is not our war" are becoming increasingly common. Moreover, public life has seen the rise of activists who single out Ukrainians, seek out people of Ukrainian origin employed in public institutions, and argue that they should be removed from their positions.

We believe that the growing wave of anti-Ukrainian rhetoric is profoundly harmful. Nothing can justify it. Concerns about the use of social support systems, pressure on healthcare services, unequal competition from Ukrainian agricultural producers, etc. may point to real challenges that should be addressed by public institutions. Yet invoking such concerns to incite hateful acts, promote hate speech, or—still worse—encourage acts of physical violence is reprehensible. Such conduct is deeply destructive and poses a threat to the fabric of social life in Poland.

It is also evident that Ukrainians make a significant positive contribution to Poland's economy and cultural life.

All of our religious traditions and cultural values call upon us to help those in need, and above all those who are fleeing mortal danger. How each citizen and resident of Poland responds to the presence of large numbers of Ukrainian refugees is ultimately a matter of conscience. May we be guided by the same values that inspired the extraordinary nationwide outpouring of solidarity and assistance offered to those arriving from Ukraine in 2022.

The Community of Conscience – A Coalition for Mutual Respect is a group of lay and religious leaders representing different faiths and philosophical traditions. Established in 2021, its purpose is to strengthen the role of conscience in the social life of Poland.

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