



The Diversity Workshop - An LGBTQ Organisation
*Stowarzyszenie Na Rzecz Lesbijek, Gejów, Osób Biseksualnych, Osób
Transpłciowych oraz Osób Queer „Pracownia Różnorodności”*
Address: ul. Mohna 50H/8, 87-100 Toruń, POLAND www.spr.org.pl
pracowniaroznorodnosci@gmail.com
KRS 0000333869, NIP 956-226-35-60, REGON 340629772

Toruń, August 1st, 2010

Viviane Reding
**European Commission Vice-President, Commissioner for Justice,
Fundamental Rights and Citizenship**
and
László Andor
European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

European Commission
B - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear Madam and Sir,

We are a non-governmental organisation defending the rights of LGBTQ persons in Poland. It was brought to the attention of our organisation, that a contest for journalists writing about equality matters is organised, on behalf of the European Commission. It is advertised as part of „For Diversity - Against Discrimination” initiative.

We have been informed that **Mrs Elzbieta Radziszewska**, who currently occupies the post of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status, is one of the jurors for 2010 edition of the prize in Poland. We have reacted to this news with shock and disbelief.

We would hereby like to voice our **deepest concerns** and **strong words of protest** against the presence of Mrs Radziszewska in this role, for this prestigious award. In our opinion Mrs Radziszewska is not fit to hold such an honour in any way. Neither by virtue of her „work” towards fighting discrimination, nor by the virtue of competence. It is in fact our view, that Mrs Radziszewska is **entirely incompetent** in the field of anti-discrimination, especially with regard to LGBTQ people. We think that she has proven her **ill-will** towards the matters of discrimination on numerous occasions. In addition, during her time in the office of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status, she has not only been inactive in fighting discrimination, she has shown discriminatory practices herself - especially with regard to LGBTQ persons.

In December 2009, together with 11 other non-governmental organisations defending the rights of LGBTQ people in Poland, we have petitioned the Polish Prime-Minister Mr Donald Tusk to remove Mrs. Radziszewska from her office. We have received no reply whatsoever. This petition includes a detailed analysis of Mrs Radziszewska’s record



The Diversity Workshop - An LGBTQ Organisation

Stowarzyszenie Na Rzecz Lesbijek, Gejów, Osób Biseksualnych, Osób Transpłciowych oraz Osób Queer „Pracownia Różnorodności”

Address: ul. Mohna 50H/8, 87-100 Toruń, POLAND www.spr.org.pl

pracowniaroznorodnosci@gmail.com

KRS 0000333869, NIP 956-226-35-60, REGON 340629772

regarding the discrimination of LGBTQ persons, which has not changed since December 2009 - and therefore we enclose it to this message.

In addition, it has been reported that organisations fighting with the discrimination of women have also been calling for the removal of Mrs Radziszewska from her office.

We understand, that fighting discrimination is one of the fundamentals of the European Union, and that this does not exclude LGBTQ persons. We think that Mrs Radziszewska's continued presence on this jury will send a very wrong message to the LGBTQ community of Poland. This is a form of European Commission's endorsement towards Mrs Radziszewska's policies.

We call for appropriate bodies at the European Commission to take action and **remove** Mrs Radziszewska from the jury of this award as soon as possible. We also hope, that more attention will be given in the future to how anti-discrimination initiatives, such as this award, are executed.

Kind regards

/ - / Paweł Szmit
board member

/ - / Aleksandra Skonieczka
board member

Carbon copy:

- European Parliament Inter-group for LGBT rights
- Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Status
- President of the European Commission
- European Commission Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
- EC mission in Poland
- EU ombudsman
- ILGA-Europe
- IGLYO
- United PR
- the media