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28 FEB. 2020

LE MAIRE DE DOUAI

Dear mayor Pawel Maj,

As 88 other cities in Poland, your city council has voted to declare Puławy an LGBT-free zone. As many other citizens and elected people in Douai, I have been stunned by such a decision, which I find particularly shocking, if not dangerous.

The sexual orientation is a fact, not a choice. Sexual orientations have always been diverse in any human community, with approximately the same distribution in all countries and all times, whatever the dominant political system, religion or philosophy. It does not belong to a state or any political authority to try to regulate what belongs to the very intimacy of people.

Respecting the freedom, identity and intimacy of any person is one of the core value that we, member nations of the European Union, must be proud to share and uphold. The 14TH article of the European Convention on Human Rights, ratified by Poland, bans any discrimination founded on the sexual orientation. Giving up such a fundamental value is opening the door to potential violence and harassment. Violence always begins with the words.

Therefore, profoundly shocked by the decision the city council of Puławy has made, I do not consider possible that you be or host for the next Fêtes de Gayant. As long as such a decision is not explicitly and publicly removed, I will consider our partnership frozen sine die.

While sincerely hoping that we can resume our exchanges on humanist bases, I wish the best to the population of Puławy.



Frédéric CHÉREAU
Maire de Douai

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