



# Universal Periodic Review of Poland

## RIGHT TO EDUCATION

### SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES

The main problem in the Polish educational system is the lack of consistency of actions that arises from the frequently changing government authorities. Poland received 185 recommendations and supported 144 recommendations during the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle in 2017.

### NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Polish school system has changed dramatically over the last thirty years. One of the main issues, relatively low participation rate in preschool education, was tackled in 2013 as a new law passed which lowered the costs of preschool education for families thanks to grants from the central budget.

### CHALLENGES

- A. Language and cultural barriers
- B. Societal discrimination against Roma
- C. LGBT people

### IMPACTS

- A. During 2020, asylum seekers faced language and cultural barriers and had limited access to higher education. In addition, children who had access to Polish language courses had to stop as courses have been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic COVID-19.
- B. Romani community representatives estimated that 30,000 to 35,000 Roma resided in the country. Romani leaders complained of widespread discrimination in employment, housing, banking, the justice system, media, and education.
- C. During 2020 local governments around the country adopted “family rights charters”, rejecting “LGBT ideology”. These legally documents focused in varying degrees on preventing “LGBT ideology” in schools, called for protection of children against moral corruption, and declared marriage as a union between a woman and a man only.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue improving teachers’ training, which must include the assessment of the knowledge of the subject they are teaching and, perhaps even more important, pedagogical training. Increasing the wages of teachers and their pension plans can also help in improving the overall quality of education.
2. Continue tackling economic inequality within the school system.
3. Provide additional financial and psychological assistance to persons with disabilities since they are a vulnerable group.
4. Implement solutions to stop the discrimination against Romani community especially in the field of education.

### BROKEN CHALK

Broken Chalk is an Amsterdam-based NGO established in 2020, focused on raising awareness on human rights violations in the educational field. Together with our international sponsors and partners, we aim to remove obstacles in education; contribute to the achievement of peace and tranquility in the society through adaptation studies in an environment of intercultural tolerance; prevent radicalism and polarization; and eliminate the opportunity gap in education for all.

### SOURCES



POLAND UN-UPR

To access the full report please scan the QR code or visit the following link:  
<https://brokenchalk.org/submission-to-the-universal-periodic-review-of-the-united-nations-human-rights-council-poland/>



www.brokenchalk.org

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