

Citizen's Declaration

We are a group of citizens actively taking part in the democratic protest movement against the unlawful actions of the current authorities and violation of the Constitution which we consider to be the grounds of the democratic accomplishments of the independent and free Third Republic of Poland. We all share the desire to clearly define the movement's goals, develop its political and social strategies, as well as undertake decisive action regarding Polish democracy. It has become an urgent task in today's Poland to resist the dismantling of institutions of the Polish judicial state carried out by the ruling PiS Party, the destruction of democratic attitudes of its citizens all of which is taking place with the complicity of this party's electorate. It is a real task and one that needs to be urgently resolved still before the term of the current authorities expires. We can deprive those currently in power of their mandate by effectively questioning its legality. We also can – and though this may appear more difficult but it too is possible and much more valuable for many reasons – force the current ruling majority to act in a lawful manner and to strictly abide by the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. We can also build in Poland a sense of civic responsibility and political subjectivity, a sense of perpetration.

1. **We are citizens of the democratic Republic of Poland and we are of the opinion that:**

- Dignity which is the inherent right of each and every individual constitutes the ethical foundation of our activities. It is from dignity that arise human rights and the rights of citizens in a state in which no government, even if it acts according to majority will and in accordance with the law, may violate the dignity and rights of an individual.
- Any individual can refuse to obey a tyranny, to obey a state that violates their dignity and their important rights and values, a state that is unlawful. One should not comply with every ruling power. An honest person in fact has no right to comply with every ruling power. This principle constitutes the first and the most fundamental foundation of democracy.
- It is with absolute certainty that a citizen is not allowed to agree with the law of thugs.
- Every person may and should defend their own dignity – also against the state and also when it is only their own dignity being violated by the state. Every person has the right to conscientious objection.
- Clear and open removal of any systemic safeguards against the government's arbitrary actions and against forcing the minority to follow majority rule constitutes reason to question the legality of any government acting in such a manner.
- Citizen's rights can be implemented in action and in joint achievement of set goals. These are the most durable foundations of a democracy. Civil perpetration is its essence. Freedom is not something granted to you at the will of a benignant ruler or a populist tribune.

2. **We are part of the political democratic camp and we are of the opinion that:**

- There exists in Poland a political opponent of constitutional democracy and this is the PiS Party.
- There exists in Poland a strong social backing which is hostile to the principles of the state of law and to human and civil rights.
- The PiS mandate to govern is in no way restricted by either the arithmetic of true voter turnout (the elections were carried out according to the law) or current polls.

This mandate though is restricted and is even negated by the current authorities' actions which violate the Constitution of the Republic of Poland.

- Respect for democracy however, does call for accepting the fact that the recent voter decision should have its political consequences. The voter verdict was, among other things, a no-confidence vote as regards the Polish political class and political parties. PiS obtained the right to implement its own agendas: economic, social, cultural. It therefore has the right to modify Polish international and defence policy, it has the right to interfere in the system of the media, the surveillance rights of the secret service and many other things that lie within its prerogative powers. All of this though should take place within the law.
- The PiS political rule does have a social backing. This party's electorate are citizens with whom we live and will continue to live in the country we share. The political process of reconstruction of Polish democracy must absolutely be accompanied by a deeper social process in which democratic mechanisms and customs shall become a lasting element of the Polish people's collective consciousness. Without this process, political victory over PiS will mean a return to the same social situation that brought about the victory of PiS.
- Not only parties in the parliament failed in Poland but also, among others, media as the Fourth Estate and the still immature structures and values of civil society.
- It is for this reason, that the primary goal of the democratic camp should be to force the elected rulers to abide by the Constitutional law. The demand for cutting short the term of the current authorities should be the last point on the agenda and not the primary goal of the movement. It is the last-resort solution and a means to put pressure on the PiS rule.
- There exists a minimal catalogue of political objectives the achievement of which is an urgent necessity and which arise directly from the Constitution of the Republic of Poland. These include immediately publishing the sentences of the Constitutional Tribunal, accepting the oaths of the legally elected judges of the Constitutional Tribunal and penalising those who are guilty of violating the Constitution. These objectives should unite today all participants of the democratic movement, and not meeting them, strips the authorities of their mandate to govern.
- Among those means of exerting pressure which we expect and intend to apply in any way we can, there is the parliamentary game, court cases, social demonstrations, strikes and protests, including civil disobedience acts – also such that violate the law.
- We do not know of any better idea for democracy than political representation in parliament and a party system. It is easy to understand the dislike felt in Poland towards the disillusioning “party self-interest”. However, the party-hostile language and party phobias present in the declarations of the defenders of democracy are a potentially dangerous phenomenon which constitute a repetition of anti-democratic propaganda of opponents of democracy past and present. In a democratic movement, it is necessary to remain open to political initiative and to accept the political ambitions of participants of the movement.
- Once more today we are faced with the task of having to fight for democracy in Poland. It is not possible just to talk about democracy. It is not possible to preach to citizens about the principles of a democratic culture. It must be built in practice. It is impossible to build democracy in organisations which ignore its most fundamental

principles – in organisations based on command-style leadership, run by officials, which restrict the freedom of choice of their representatives, restrict freedom of discussion and exchange of information and stifle the activities of own participants. A democratic movement coming to life first of all needs true realisation of democratic co-existence and not a state of uniformity the aim of which is being effective action.

Signing the Civil Declaration does not automatically mean you have joined the Obywatele RP movement. If you wish to act with us, complete the form Join us [Dołącz do nas.](#)