

16 February 2018

His Excellency Mr. Andrzej Duda
President of Poland

Administration of the President of Poland
Ul. Wiejska 10
00-902 Warsaw, Poland
listy@prezydent.pl

Dear Mr. President:

Object: Reconsideration of Amendment to Act on the Institute of National Remembrance

The Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) and the 20-million strong Ukrainian diaspora it represents, including over one million Ukrainians living in Poland, express their deep concern over the recent amendment to the *Act on the Institute of National Remembrance - Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation*, which you signed into law on 6 February 2018 following its adoption by the Sejm and Senate of the Republic of Poland.

It is the fear of the UWC that the new legislation will, by broadening the mandate of the Institute, further fuel animosity and hostilities between the Polish and Ukrainian peoples and in turn, support the persistent efforts of the Russian Federation to weaken the bond that exists between the two peoples and prevents Russian westward advance across European soil.

The UWC also supports the resolution of the [Parliament of Ukraine](#) in response to the new legislation which categorically rejects the policy of double standards and promoting the idea of collective responsibility of the Ukrainian people, and the Polish attempt to equate the actions of all fighters for the independence of Ukraine to the crimes of the two totalitarian regimes of the 20th century – Nazi and Communist.

The UWC firmly believes that the democratic privileges of research, education and open dialogue are fundamental to reconciliation and unity for the Polish and Ukrainian peoples.

We, therefore, urge you to reconsider this legislation for the benefit of both the Ukrainian and Polish peoples, and peace and security in the region.

Sincerely,

UKRAINIAN WORLD CONGRESS



Eugene Czolij
President

cc: Mr. Petro Tyma, President of the Association of Ukrainians in Poland

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has a network of member organizations and ties with Ukrainians in 53 countries. Founded in 1967, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization with special consultative status.