



Prezydent  
Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej

Warsaw, September 5 2016

Your Eminence,

Since 2004, when the Republic of Poland joined the European Union, many of my compatriots have chosen the United Kingdom as their place of residence. In fact, in the last twelve years, Poles have become the largest ethnic minority in the UK. Furthermore, the Polish language have grown to be England's main spoken language after English. We are grateful to have been received warmly and generously by the British society. The Poles living in Great Britain have worked strenuously to become a pigment of the vast British mosaic by contributing their fullest potential to the socio-economic condition of the United Kingdom.

Regrettably, over the past weeks we have witnessed incidents that have caused deep concerns to the Polish nation in general, and to myself in person. On 27 August, two Polish nationals were attacked by a group of teenagers in the town of Harlow. One of them, Arkadiusz Jóźwik, was killed. A week later, and hours following the vigil in honour of the Pole, another two Polish men were assaulted in what police are describing as a possible hate crime.

Your Eminence,

I am sure Your Eminence will agree that it is of utmost importance that these incidents do not occur again, as they have a potential of creating a formidable ridge between the Polish and English people. This could, in turn, lead to the erosion of the local community, characterised by a genuinely positive presence of Poles in England.

It is worth remembering Your Eminence's words following the first wave of xenophobia after Britain voted to leave the EU, that "this upsurge of racism, of hatred towards others, is something we must not tolerate. We have to say this is simply not acceptable in a humane society and it should never be provoked or promoted," and that "we need to grasp again our basic sense of purpose; in living together, creating together and fashioning a society."

Permit me, Your Eminence, to draw your attention to the issue once again. Allow me also to plea for a constructive effort on part of the Roman Catholic Church in England and its local parishes to alleviate the adverse consequences of intolerance and xenophobia, including what appears to be a clear instance of aversion and animosity towards Poles.

**His Eminence  
Vincent Cardinal Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster  
Westminster Cathedral  
London**

My appeal has its roots in my deep concern regarding the well-being of my fellow countrymen living and working in the United Kingdom, and the conviction that the issue of respect towards minorities is also a priority to Your Grace. Only through mutual understanding and consideration for one another a thriving community can be achieved..

Yours Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Shu". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'A' and a prominent 'S'.