

## IFE-EFI

Initiative Féministe Européenne pour une autre Europe  
European Feminist Initiative for another Europa  
Iniciativa Feminista Europea para otra Europa  
Europejska Feministyczna Inicjatywa dla innej Europy  
Europäische Feministische Initiative für ein anderes Europa  
Europejska Feministicka Inicijativa za drukciju Europu  
Iniziativa Feminista Europea per un' altra Europa  
Europeiskt Feministiskt Initiativ for ett annat Europa  
Iniciativa Féminista Européa para uma outra Europa  
Európai Feminista Kezdeményezés egy másfelyen Európaért  
Европска Феминистичка Иницијатива за поинаква Европа  
Ευρωπαϊκή Φεμινιστική Πρωτοβουλία για Μία Άλλη Ευρώπη  
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Europejska Feministyczna Inicjatywa w Polsce, polska sekcja Europejskiej Feministycznej Inicjatywy dla innej Europy  
European Feministe Initiative in Poland, Polish section of European Feministe Initiative for another Europe

### STATEMENT

**Polish feminist organizations are planning a protest on 24th of January in front of Polish Parliament** over a draft of an *in vitro* fertilization act - dubbed "Gowin's project". The project takes its name from the name of the Polish MP charged with drafting of the law by the Civic Platform, the "enlightened" pro-European right-wing party. According to the draft, only married couples where wife is less than forty years old would be granted the right to take advantage of the *in vitro* fertilization. The law would ban creation of any surplus embryos and their cryopreservation (the law would not authorize implantation of more than two embryos), rendering the *in vitro* fertilization method completely inefficient.

This conservative project, first approved by the Catholic Church, has attracted criticism even within the Civic Platform. At that moment Polish Episcopal Conference has assumed a much tougher stance, as such in its pastoral letter of 28 December: «God is the only Lord of life. Children are a gift from God and not a consumer product (...) The right to a child does not exist.» Having described all forms of *in vitro* as "morally illicit", the bishops encouraged the members to «vote in accordance with their conscience in order to defend the dignity of the act of procreation and of human life, instead of seeking morally unacceptable compromises».

In this context "Gowin's project", even without the need to swap a single letter, resurfaces as a moderate proposition, result of a compromise. These tactics are very well known from the times when the anti-abortion law was being drafted in Poland. The law on "in vitro" is also likely to lead to a total ban on abortion in Poland given its unconditional prohibition of the destruction of human fetuses.

**The European Feminist Initiative in Poland is the co-organizer of the protest against the interference of the Polish Catholic Church in the legislative process in Poland, which seeks to once again impose religious principles in the field of procreation to Polish citizens. Poles are not all believers and Catholics (remember that other religions are not opposed to the method *in vitro*). We also oppose the effects of adoption of this law that could lead to a total ban on abortion, already severely restricted under the anti-abortion law in force in Poland.**

**NO TO REGRESSION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN POLAND!  
YES TO SECULAR EUROPE!**

We invite all feminist and secular organizations in Europe to express their solidarity with our protest at:

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